

# MEET MS. JULIE:

Ms. Julie has been a program facilitator at Girls Inc. for six months, and because she is not from Owensboro, she said she was not familiar with Girls Inc. But after seeing a flyer for a job opportunity at Girls Inc., she researched the nonprofit and learned about the after-school program for girls.

“I am currently majoring in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in learning behavior disorders, and I knew this job would be a perfect fit for me,” she said.

Ms. Julie wants to make an impact on the girls, and through the connections she has made with the girls, she is also a great role model for teaching them to be strong, smart, and bold.

“The one thing I wished everyone knew about Girls Inc. would be this is not just an after-school program, it is so much more,” she said. “Our goal is to always make those connections with the girls and their families.”

Creating and teaching virtual lessons to the girls is important to Ms. Julie, who believes that the virtual lessons can help restore the routine of Girls Inc. programming. “Not only this, but these lessons are a way to reach out to the girls and show them that we still care and are thinking about them,” she said. “The lessons are built to be engaging and bring some stress-free fun into their lives.”

She said that although she has found new opportunities for herself in creating the online programming and building her technology skills, she prefers to be in a classroom with the girls.

“I love being able to teach them face to face and seeing the information click with the girls,” she said.

Ms. Julie can't wait to get back with the girls and misses seeing the girls and hearing the stories about what is going on in their lives.

“I always continue to learn new things from the girls and vice versa,” she said. “I miss being in class with the girls and seeing their faces light up when they finally understand something or when they have a new idea.”

In only a couple of months at Girls Inc., Ms. Julie learned how important she had become in the girls' lives when, during a classroom activity of making cards to give to each other, several of the girls chose to make them for her. She was surprised because she was relatively new to the program and she worked with several who were hesitant to “let her in.”



“In the cards the girls told me how thankful they were that I was also their teacher with Ms. Lexi and how kind and helpful I have been to them,” she said. “I knew at that moment by just showing the girls they are important and showing that I care for them impacted them just as much as it impacted me.”

Ms. Julie said that all of the staff goes beyond teaching and tries to make a difference in their lives.

“Just because we are off the clock does not mean we are not trying to find ways to help them,” she said, adding that she has never worked in an organization that takes care of the girls' needs like Girls Inc. does.

