The Reese Brooks Gilbert Initiative, a program of the Evans Project, focuses on honing the leadership skills of young women leaders enrolled in bachelors degree programs at four-year colleges and universities primarily located in southeastern states. During their tenure in the program, young women have the opportunity to participate in experiential and enhanced learning opportunities, develop relationships with program-assigned advisors, and build a network of peers to support their long-term personal and professional growth.

**CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION:**

- Rising sophomore or junior with between 30 and 60 credit hours completed
- Full-time student enrolled in at least 12 credit hours
- Interest in reproductive justice, Black liberation, womanism, feminism, advocacy and/or community organizing
- Strong leadership potential
- Young women with the potential to be overlooked, “fall through the cracks” or be ignored due to average or failing grades
- No GPA requirement

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION:**

- Two letters of reference, along with completed application
- Two-year committed participation
- Attendance at 10-day, mandatory in-person session in July (all travel and accommodations will be handled by The Lighthouse);
- Attendance at three-day Winter in-person gathering
- Commitment from on-campus liaison (professor who teaches at least one major class during the academic year, for example) to engage with project coordinator, when necessary
- Monthly check-ins with advisor, project director, and small group

**BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION:**

- $1,500 stipend per participant per academic year
- Advisor pairing
- Access to external opportunities
- Strong cohort support and expanded network

Our mission is to be a revelatory, unflickering light for Black girls and young women in the southern United States through safe spaces and focused programming.