

RITE NOW @ ROP



Southwest Leadership Academy's (SLA) cheerleading squad has never looked so good with new uniforms and shoes paid for by a Women in Sports grant, and a new coach, Esmeralda Delgado, SLA's registrar. Ms. Delgado, herself a cheerleader in high school, has been training with the squad and they have helped the team win two out of their last three games with their new cheer routines and exceptional enthusiasm.

Although cheerleading may look easy, the cheerleaders practice their routines throughout the week and must be in good physical condition to perform their routines for 2-3 hours of each game. Cheerleading is truly a sport at Southwest Leadership as there is a lot of practice, talent and skill that goes into each routine and game day performance.

The Women in Sports Foundation, founded by Billie Jean King, donated \$250,000 to 50 organizations to help increase access and opportunity to sports for girls of color so that they can experience the foundational benefits that sports provide including confidence, self-esteem, perseverance and leadership. The funds had to be used for predominantly African American and Hispanic girls, ages 11-18 for coaching, curriculum, equipment, uniforms, transportation, facility rental, tournaments and team building activities.

In addition to the cheerleading squad uniforms, the \$5,000 grant to SLA was used to also provide uniforms for the new volleyball team. The grant was written by Nancey Carter, SLA's Compliance Officer.
