Tomorrow's Leaders
By Lauren Dzubow

Last spring, more than 3,000 women with great ideas applied for the first-ever O-White House Leadership Project contest. The winners got to attend an inspiration-packed three-day program, with coaching by some of the top women trailblazers in the country. Here, the projects that are making a difference:

Name: Erica Courtney
Age: 36
Hometown: Dania Beach, Florida
Project Idea: Biodiversity and Company, a nature-based business focused on protecting the Chocó rainforest in Ecuador through the sale of carbon credits
Sound bite: "I tend not to look at things as hurdles, but as challenges. I went through flight training in the U.S. Cavalry in 1997, just when it had opened its doors to women. I learned that if people were ignorant, fine, let them be ignorant. My job in life is not to change their opinion— it's just to do the best work I can, and eventually they'll come around."