Political Empowerment Workshop

This class is for anyone with an interest in the political process or desire to explore public leadership opportunities! No prior knowledge required.

No Cost to students and community members!

Interested students should be directed to Highline CC Continuing Education office (Bldg 99, room 101) or call (206) 870-3785 to register.

Dates: Tuesdays
Feb 18, 25, and March 4, 11 of 2014
(This class is 8 hours total, two hours per week.)

Time: 6:00pm-8:00pm

Location: Highline Community College (Bldg 7)

Cost: No Cost to students/community members!
To pre-register call 206-870-3785 or register online at ce.highline.edu (Personal Growth Left-Tab).

Political Empowerment Workshop Instructors:
Velma Veloria, Former WA State Legislator, Community Organizer/Activist
Alice Tang Coil, Diversity Educator/Trainer, Community Organizer/Activist

Well known former State Representative and activist Velma Veloria and educator/activist Alice Tang Coil have teamed up again to offer another engaging and informative course on “POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT.” The interactive class will demystify the political and policy making process, enabling participants to recognize their own leadership potential, gain confidence in their ability to participate in the public sectors, and advocate for change. The goal of the workshop is to inspire community members who choose to lead and work for positive change at local, state, and national levels.

This course offers:

- interactive learning opportunities with community leaders from public and private who will their inside stories to public leadership positions,
- hands-on activities to assist participants with developing specific leadership skills and community organizing strategies,
- SPEAK UP AND BE HEARD on issues identified by participants.
**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**WHAT IS POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT?**

Political empowerment is a process of inspiring, encouraging, and supporting individuals to recognize their own leadership potentials and to gain confidence in their ability to participate in the public sectors. It is a process that moves us from individual volunteerism (e.g. serving meals in homeless shelter) to political activism (e.g. advocating and lobbying to end homelessness) to political leadership (e.g. running for public/political positions and introducing legislation to address homelessness.)

**WHY POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT?**

Political empowerment builds capacity for individuals to influence public policies by articulating issues or interests and informing policymakers, and to take an active role in the process of decision-making. The goal of Political Empowerment is to re-envision a political landscape with robust representation of individuals from diverse racial, cultural, educational, professional, and socio-economic backgrounds working for public goods.

**WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM THIS CLASS?**

You will receive a snapshot of how the U.S. government is organized at national, state, and local levels; how to gain knowledge of political systems and means to access to it; how to speak up and be heard, and how to take an active leadership role in positive social change. The workshop will facilitate interaction between you and public leaders, elected officials, and community organizers in the class session. You will have the opportunity to hear their "inside stories" to public leadership and strategies/processes for political activism. The Political Empowerment Workshop will challenge you with case studies to sharpen your leadership skills.

**BUT I AM NOT POLITICAL……………..**

“The personal is political” suggests virtually everything that we do have some kind of impact on others—from the way we get to the class (bus fares, bus routes, gasoline prices, etc.) to the food we buy (prices, labeling, packaging, etc.) Political action often moves us from self-interest (advocating for things I care about) to common concerns (working with others for public goods.)

**WHAT DO FORMER STUDENTS SAY ABOUT POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP?**

“I truly appreciate this opportunity. It has been a great beginning for me and I am excited to put into practice what I have learned.”

“I want to run for office one day.”

“I plan to appear in city public hearings and speak up on issues most concerning to me and my community.”

“I am more confident in lobbying for and attempting to influence a particular public policy in the future.”

*For more information, contact Political Empowerment Initiative (PEI) instructors at peifacilitators@gmail.com*