

News Release

South Seattle Community College

6000 16th Avenue, SW, Seattle, WA 98106-1499 • www.southseattle.edu • (206) 764-5300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2010

Political Empowerment for the Rest of Us – Speakers & Panelists Announced

Political veterans and community activists Velma Veloria and Alice Coil teach tricks of the trade.

Thursdays, May 13 - June 10, 2010

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

South Seattle Community College

6000-16th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106

Cost: \$60

Contact: (206) 764-5339

Email: lmotten@sccd.ctc.edu

Web: LearnatSouth.org

Well known former State Representative and activist Velma Veloria, and educator/activist Alice Tan Coil have teamed up to offer an informative and engaging five-session course entitled ***Political Empowerment – Process and Strategies***. The non-credit class, offered through South Seattle Community College's Continuing Education Department, will demystify the political and policy making process, enabling attendees to recognize their own leadership potential, gain confidence in their ability to participate in the public sectors, and advocate for change.

A unique feature of the course is the opportunity to interact with community leaders and learn from veteran insiders about their journeys and passion for public service.

By the end of the course, participants will have gained an understanding of party politics, running a campaign for office or an issue, fundraising and media skills, who's who in area politics, and how to translate their own skills into a career in the political realm.

Course Schedule (additional guests to be announced)

Week One, May 13

Public Leadership – The Inside Story

Representative Phyllis Kenney; King County Councilmember Larry Gossett; Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien

Week Two, May 20

Serving Our Communities – Government and Political Parties 101

George Cheung, Executive Director, Win/Win Network; Dwight Pelz, Chair, Washington State Democrats; Ralph Munro, former longtime Washington Secretary of State

Week Three, May 27

Skill Building Workshops I & II – Political & Community Organizing

Henry Yates, Lobbyist; Nori Catabay, Project Manager, King County Green Tools

Week Four, June 3

Skill Building Workshops III & IV – Running for Office & Positioning for Appointments

Guests TBA.

Week Five, June 10

Class Presentations

Mock press conference format; guests, community leaders and classmates will offer evaluation and critiques.

“We created this program to empower the new generation of community leaders,” said Veloria. “And we especially hope it inspires individuals from diverse racial, cultural, educational, professional, and socio-economic backgrounds – those who, in the past, may have not seen themselves as participants in the political process.”

This class is for everyone with an interest in the political process! No prior knowledge required.

Register online at www.LearnAtSouth.org, or call (260) 764-5339 for more information.

Velma Veloria

Philippine-born **Velma Veloria** was the first Filipina American to serve in the Washington State Legislature (1992-2004). Among her many accomplishments during that time was the passage of the anti-human trafficking legislation, making the State of Washington the first state in the nation to make human trafficking illegal. She also authored legislation that created a Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Trade Policy.

As a former labor organizer, Veloria has a demonstrated track record of successfully educating the broader community on important working family issues and lobbying for passage of legislation to support families. She is a skilled leader, adept at motivating and mentoring a multicultural workforce to become aware of their potentials. Her passions are sharing knowledge and information, while working with people to empower themselves.

Alice Tan Coil

For over two decades, Alice Tan Coil has been active in community organizations and projects that promote intercultural relations, leadership development, and social justice. She has partnered with educators and community leaders to educate and empower the next generation of women in pursuit of political and public leadership. Coil is currently program specialist for the University of Puget Sound’s Race and Pedagogy Initiative, a program designed to weave together scholarship and action in order to reduce racism and improve pedagogical practices at all educational levels.

South Seattle Community College

The college’s Continuing Education division offers 150 classes each quarter, ranging from computer skills to cooking to home repair. Designed to fit into busy schedules, these classes offer the lifelong learner variety and flexibility, with online and classroom instruction.

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Media Inquiries

Public Information Office

coehler@sccd.ctc.edu / (206) 768-6873

Beacon Hill News/South District Journal, Highline Times/Des Moines News, International Examiner, Northwest Asian Weekly/Seattle Chinese Post, Seattle Chinese News, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Seattle Times, Vashon-Maury Island Beachcomber, Colors NW; West Seattle Herald/White Center News, West Seattle Blog, World Journal, SCCtv, Seattle Weekly, North American Post, Soy Source, Youmaga, Seattle Spin, The Stranger, KING TV, KIRO TV, KOMO TV, KCPQ TV, KCTS TV, KUOW, KPLU, KOMO AM, KUNS TV, North Delridge Neighborhood Council, Filipino American Herald, Filipino Reporter, El Mundo, Siete Dias, Nuestro Noroeste, The Facts, Rainier Valley Post, White Center Now; Blogging Georgetown; Seattle Post Globe, Beacon Hill Blog, South Seattle Beacon; Bellevue Reporter; Federal Way Mirror; Auburn Reporter; Covington/Maple Valley Reporter; Kent Reporter; Renton Reporter; Redmond Reporter; Kirkland Reporter; Enumclaw Courier-Herald; Snoqualmie Valley Record; UW Daily; Seattle University Spectator; UW Filipino American Student Association; Filipino Community of Seattle; Filipino American Bulletin

editor@westseattleblog.com; editor@sdistrictjournal.com; hteditor@robinsonnews.com; info@napost.com; iexaminer@iexaminer.org; kcd@joongangseattle.com; ktimes@hotmail.com; stacyngu@nwasianweekly.com; chineseseattlenews@yahoo.com; sgn2@sgn.org; citydesk@seattlepi.com; newstips@seattletimes.com; naomii@colorsnw.com; raulperez@elsietedias.com; soysource@japanpacific.com; mediumnews@aol.com; Sentinel Editor; seattle@theskanner.com; editor@thestranger.com; editor@vashonbeachcomber.com; wseeditor@robinsonnews.com; news@fauntleroy.net; blair@highlandpk.net; SCCTV; tips@komo4news.com; tips@q13fox.com; newsroom@kuow.org; newstips@king5.com; newstips@kirotv.com; newstips@komoradio.com; whitecenternow@gmail.com; lost_can@yahoo.com; eveningtips@king5.com; info@kunstv.com; nickeaton@seattlepi.com; editor@rainiervalleypost.com; nperry@seattletimes.com; blog@beaconhill.seattle.wa.us; maudes@djc.com; seattle@bizjournals.com; editor@southseattlebeacon.com; bearcd@plu.edu; editor@federalwaymirror.com; khill@maplevalleyreporter.com; editor@rentonreporter.com; editor@bellevuereporter.com; mklaas@auburn-reporter.com; editor@kentreporter.com; editor@redmond-reporter.com; editor@kirklandreporter.com; mike.walter@kirklandreporter.com; bmarcum@courierherald.com; struscott@valleyrecord.com; adominguez@nuestronoroeste.com; martha@elmundous.com; editor@dailyuw.com; editor@suspectator.com; fasa@u.washington.edu; filambull@comcast.net

FAX:

206 242-3325

206 722-1060

206 324-1007