

News Release

South Seattle Community College

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Political Empowerment for the Rest of Us

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

Thursdays, May 13 - June 10

6:30-8:30 pm

South Seattle Community College

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

Cost: \$60

Contact: (206) 764-5339

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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 students to recognize their own leadership potential, gain confidence in their ability to participate in the public sectors, and advocate for change.

By the end of this interactive course, students 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.

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. Confirmed guest speakers thus far include State Representative Phyllis Kenney, King County Councilmember Larry Gossett, Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien, and former State Senator Dwight Pelz, currently chair of the Washington State Democrats. Additional speakers will be announced.

"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.



Velma Veloria

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