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**LAS COMADRES LEGACY PROGRAMS INSTITUTE:
Texas Public Policy And Candidate Training (TPP-ACT)**

The small number of Latinas involved in the political process statewide is startling given that Latinos are one of the fastest growing groups in Texas and throughout the country. There are few elected political officials to advocate for the needs of this emerging constituency. This is of concern given that many key policy decisions affecting Texas Latinos are made through these entities. While women are emerging at all levels –local, state, and federal– to express their desire to lead, there are few Latinas seeking political life and involvement. *Las Comadres Para Las Americas* hopes to change this, one comadre at a time!¹

Servant leadership and campaign training encourage people to become agents of change in their communities, while also educating them on the resources and skills to identify the issues they want to effectively address. The *vision* of the **Texas Public Policy And Candidate Training (TPP-ACT)** is to empower and increase the number of Latina leaders in Texas. Whereas, the *mission* is to enhance the overall quality and quantity of Latina political leadership in Texas by recruiting and preparing emerging leaders for public office and citizen activism now and in the future.²

The **TPP-ACT**, part of *Las Comadres Para Las Americas Legacy Programs Institute*³, is a state-level program designed to encourage Comadres in our Texas cities to participate in the political process by being informed on issues, candidates, and voting.

1st Session: **Sat. 22, August** (9 am-6 pm)
2nd Session: **Sat. 19, September** (9 am-6 pm)
3rd Session: **Sat. 17, October** (9am-6pm)
4th Session: **Sat. 14, November** (9am-6pm)
5th Session: **Sat. 5, December** (9 am-6 pm)

Time Commitment:
2009 trainings will be conducted for 5 months (5 Saturdays.)
Location: TBA

Participants are required to attend all sessions and make a commitment to present to a group in their community valuable information learned from the training. At completion of the program all participants who met the attendance and participation requirements will be awarded a certificate from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and the Center for Public Policy and Governance at The University of Texas at Austin and Las Comadres Para Las Americas.

Costs: Tuition is **\$400.00**, payable in installments but is non-refundable. Participants are expected to cover their own transportation, room and board costs. Based on need, some partial scholarships are available and home hosting by local comadres may be an option.

Application: Program application and resume are due by **July 1, 2009**—email noracomstockphd@lascomadres.org to request application. As part of the selection process, potential candidates will be interviewed by phone and contacted by the selection committee of final decision by **July 17, 2009**.

1 This program is intended to be replicated in other states, as needed and requested. Former Texas State representative, Mr. Lauro Cruz's Innovation Hispanic Leadership Program is a precursor to this program. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Cruz.

2 The training is nondiscriminatory and nonpartisan and does not participate in campaigns on behalf of issues, causes or candidates running for office.

3 A national nonprofit Latina organization, internationally known, empowering women to be actively engaged in the growing Latino/Hispanic communities through online and face-to-face networks. Our mission is connecting and empowering Latinas everywhere through community building/professional networking, culture, learning, and technology.

PROGRAM

Las Comadres Para Las Americas and the *Public Policy & Candidate Training* are nonpartisan and non-ideological. We seek individuals from a broad range of ideologies and will encourage participants to avoid partisanship during the duration of the program. The program also will keep a careful partisan balance among the presenters. An area of focus will be on ethics and public responsibility. While most candidate trainings focus solely on the nuts and bolts of running a campaign, this training places these important practical skills in a broader context. We will not prescribe a particular set of campaign guidelines or rules. Instead, we seek to provide candidates with a framework for setting their own guidelines, always with a focus on running a winning and ethical campaign.

CURRICULUM & ACTIVITIES

The curriculum will include the arenas of public service, servant leadership, policy, and citizenship. A goal is to present the many opportunities for political office/public service available for consideration in our Texas cities, counties, and state. The training will explore the general set of skills required for all positions and then seek to determine the specific skills required for each position; selection of two or three key positions will serve as a model for the other positions.

Like other trainings, we will include content on campaign strategy, fundraising, free and paid media, messages and presentation of self, and field work. We also will explore how women can approach the decision to run for public office. Other elements include campaign logistics, such as scheduling, budgeting, and voter targeting.

The sessions will be a mixture of lectures, panels, case studies, readings from books and articles, films, interviews, debates, field trips and evidence from cutting-edge political research about the effects and effectiveness of various campaign techniques. Through case studies and small-group discussions, the curriculum will encourage candidates to consider tough choices they are likely to face during an actual campaign so that they can consider how to handle these dilemmas without the pressures of the real campaign.

PRESENTERS

Presenters will be community leaders from across the state with expertise in specific areas, as well as individuals who have served or who are presently in office. We also will include individuals who have run unsuccessfully to share their experiences and recommendations and family of candidates or incumbents to share the stress of the political process on families.

What the participants had to say about the training:

"The vast experience we encountered in one day was monumental."

"The feeling of unity and purpose with people of commitment was a great experience for me."

"Frankly, a network of Latinas who are running or who are contemplating running for office is a unique group."

"Great learning experience. Confidence building."

"Taught us the nuts and bolts and the reality."

"Getting a holistic view of the overall portion of the campaign was priceless."

"I can't think of a session that I've ever had that will be more useful in my own campaign & with my political connectedness."



Inaugural Class 2007