



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 Institute³, 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.

Time Commitment: 2011 trainings will be conducted for 6 months (6 Saturdays).

1st Session: Sat. July 23 (9am-7pm)
2nd Session: Sat. August 20 (9am-7 pm)
3rd Session: Sat. September 17 (9 am-7 pm)
4th Session: Sat. October 1 (9 am-7 pm)
5th Session: Sat. November 12 (9 am-7 pm)
6th Session: Sat. December 3 (9 am-7 pm)

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 of participation by Las Comadres and signed by Senator Leticia Van de Putte.

Location: Texas State Capitol.

Prerequisite: Become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar. All participants accepted into the program must become volunteer deputy registrars and register 10 people to vote, prior to coming to the first class. To become a registrar, please refer to:

<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/pamphlets/deputy.shtml>

Costs: Tuition is \$400.00. The first \$100.00 to be paid in the first session. Participants are expected to fundraise the additional \$300.00 throughout the duration of the class. Participants will provide weekly status reports about their fundraising efforts as well as monthly oral and written reports at each TPPACT Session.

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 candidates running for office.

3 An international community of Latinas strengthened by actively networking and connecting. Our mission is to create opportunities for Latinas through community, culture, technology, education and monthly comadrazos (sm) in cities around the world.

Participants are also expected to cover their own transportation, room and board costs. Home hosting by local comadres may be an option.

Application: Program application and resume are due by June 15, 2011—email sylvia.kauffman@earthlink.net to request an application. As part of the selection process, potential candidates will be interviewed by phone and contacted by the selection committee of final decision by May 10, 2011.

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 throughout 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.

Class Team Assignment: Throughout the six sessions, participants will be expected to work in teams to: 1) research an issue that affects the Latino community in Texas or the U.S., such as human trafficking; 2) assess the strengths and weaknesses of current legislation and policies about this issue; 3) develop legislation and policy recommendations to address the areas of concern with current legislation and policies; 4) plan a lobbying campaign to ensure legislation is passed and policy recommendations are implemented; 5) and present all findings in briefing book format and presentation to the class.

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.

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