

IGNITE to Host Young Women's Political Leadership Conference

Three U.S. Congresswomen, Miss America 2018 Cara Mund, local elected women, activists, policy experts and campaign consultants from across party lines join together to empower the next generation of women to run for office.

Washington, D.C. - IGNITE, a non-partisan organization focused on preparing young women to run for office, will host, a two-day conference on June 25-26, 2018 to train politically ambitious college and young female professionals to become the next generation of political leaders. The event will take place steps away from the U.S. Capitol, at the AT&T Forum for Technology, Entertainment & Policy in Washington, D.C (located at 601 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001).

Congresswomen Nanette Diaz Barragán (CA-44), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) will personally share their paths to politics as inspiration for young women to step up and lead. Special remarks will also be given by Miss America 2018 Cara Mund, who has political aspirations to become the first female governor in her home state of North Dakota. In addition, there will be a powerhouse line-up of expert panels, workshops and media training designed to prepare young women to run for office. Young women will leave the event with the networks and tools they need to launch their political careers.

“There is a story that is not being told: the surge in young women who are also fed up with the status quo and are not waiting until they have established careers to get involved and run for office,” said Anne Moses, President & Founder of IGNITE. “Electing women to political office is a long game and IGNITE is the leading organization in the country providing training, resources, and networks to feed the pipeline so there are thousands of women running in the decades to come.”

As women continue to run for office in record numbers and young women continue to become the face of national movements, there is booming demand for political leadership training by women across the country. In the 2018 primaries, more women are getting on ballots nationwide and many are winning, putting women on track to hold political seats in record numbers in 2019. According to the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, 476 women have filed to run for the House in 2018. This number surpasses the 272 who filed in 2016. To date, 114 women have won their primary elections.

Recently, the Miss America organization has decided it too wants to empower women by making some drastic internal changes. Miss America is axing the swimsuit and evening gown components of the competition to shift the focus away from women's appearance and onto women's ambitions

“I'm passionate about female political engagement and it is my goal to empower women of all ages to pursue higher education, give back to their communities, and use their voice and voting power in the political process,” said Cara Mund 2018 Miss America. “This conference is the perfect way to train young women across our country to become community leaders.”

Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán and Miss America 2018 Cara Mund will speak at the welcome reception hosted on Monday, June 25th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the AT&T Forum (601 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001).

The conference program and speaker line up can be viewed at www.ignitenational.org/ywr2018. Join the conversation by following #YoungWomenRun.

Sponsors include: AT&T, EILEEN FISHER Facebook, George Washington University, LinkedIn, and Solidarity Strategies. Media Partners: Cosmopolitan and Seventeen.

About IGNITE

IGNITE is a national movement of young women who are ready and eager to become the next generation of political leaders. As a nonpartisan 501c3, IGNITE trains 5,000+ high school and college-aged young women across the country each year. IGNITE provides civic education, exposure to women in political leadership, hands-on training, work opportunities, and a peer network of women who support and nurture each other's aspirations for civic and political leadership. www.ignitenational.org

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