iGNiTE | POLITICAL POWER IN EVERY YOUNG WOMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Dr. Margo McClinton Stoglin, (214) 918-8233, margo@ignitenational.org

IGNITE HOSTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE TO BUILD POLITICAL AMBITION IN YOUNG WOMEN EAGER TO MAKE CHANGE
Texas State Representative Nicole Collier to Deliver Keynote at Feb. 17 Event

DALLAS – February 5, 2018 – We've all seen the news: Thousands of women are signing up to run for office in 2018. But there's a story that's not been told, namely, the surge in young women who are also becoming politically active, gearing up to run as soon as they can.

Electing women to political office is a long game. With roughly 20 percent of all elected positions held by women, according to *the Center for American Women and Politics*, there is a dire need for women across generations to engage in the political process. IGNITE is the leading nonprofit, nonpartisan organization providing training, resources, and networks to feed the pipeline, so there are masses of women running in the decades to come.

Organizers anticipate nearly 200 young women will participate in IGNITE's annual Texas Young Women's Political Leadership Conference being held on **Saturday, February 17, 2018**, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas (304 Administration Drive). Over 30 elected officials will participate in the training, encouraging young women to embrace their rights to political power, including **State Representative Nicole Collier**, who will deliver the keynote address. **WFAA news anchor Alisha Laventure** will moderate the session.

Other featured speakers at the conference will include: Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins; Dallas County Criminal Court Judge Tina Yoo Clinton; Ret. Major General Mary Saunders; Dr. Patty Garcia, Vice President of Programs and Operations at the Latino Center for Leadership Development; and Sasha Moreno, Candidate for Dallas County Justice of the Peace. IGNITE will also recognize three individuals as recipients of the 2018 Trailblazer Award, including **Jennifer Staubach Gates**, Dallas City Council, District 13; **Chris Wallace**, president of Texas Association of Business; and **Judge Yoo Clinton**.

The conference is free for high school students and their parents; registration for college students is $10.00 per person.

In addition to the elected women participating, there will be a powerhouse line-up of expert panels and workshops designed to prepare young women to run for office. For more information on the conference, click here, and for the full program, click here.

Since 2009, IGNITE has trained more than 5,000 young women in their own communities. Forty-six percent of IGNITE's college women have gone on to volunteer or intern in the office of an elected official, and 73 percent report that they feel driven to run for public office.
IGNITE Hosts Political Leadership Conference for Young Women

"The young women we train are exceptional, and have the power, intellect and drive to make a difference not only in their own communities, but in positively impacting the future of all Americans," said Dr. Margo McClinton Stoglin, Texas State Director for IGNITE.

Mia Muric, a political science major at the University of North Texas, will attend this year's conference, which she believes has great value for young women: "It is a great way to connect with and learn from local officials who are invested in getting women elected, as well as meet more college-aged women with similar ambitions as mine. Specifically, I'm hoping to get some insight on how I can tailor my message for when I eventually run for office and build connections with elected officials and candidates that will be beneficial in the long-term."

The 2018 conference is sponsored by Dallas Women's Foundation; Frost Bank; Mercedes-Benz Financial Services; Microsoft; Pepsi; The Princeton Review; Dallas Women's Foundation; North Texas Commission; Texas Association of Business; and WFAAChannel8.

For more information on IGNITE, please click here.