Film Screening and Panel Discussion on Women’s Political Participation

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Institute for Women’s Leadership Social Action Project
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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Fueling My Research

• Where are young people looking for their political role models?

• How do young people navigate adult power?

• What are young women doing to get included in, subvert, and reconstruct the political system?
In 2012, 90 women served in the U.S. Congress.

In 2012, 6 women served as State Governors.

In 2012, 11 women served as Lieutenant Governors.

Since 2003, no woman has served in New Jersey’s 15-member congressional delegation.

In 2013 only 35 women held seats in the New Jersey state legislature, while there are 120 available seats.

In 2013, out of the 565 municipalities in New Jersey, only 80 of them had female mayors.

(Center for American Women and Politics, 2013)
Youth and Civic Engagement?

Young people are associated with “waning civic spirit, lack of political knowledge and general apathy” towards important societal issues BUT there has been very little written about “the ways in which youth themselves are actively involved in their own political socialization”

(Gordon & Taft 500-501)
The Foundation

• The research tells us more women can run, but why aren’t they? (Carroll 2013)

• How are women of color serving as descriptive representatives for their communities? (Dovi 2002. Gallagher 2012)

• What would it take for me (a young woman of color) to run? (panel/event)
The Focus Group

• Group was comprised of women of color, ages ranging from 18-21 years old

• Questions/Results

• Young women ARE interested in this topic.

• Young women are more comfortable with the title advocate or public servant than politician.
The Film Screening

RAISING MS. PRESIDENT

Wednesday November 13, 2013
5:30 Reception
6:00pm Film Screening and Panel Discussion
Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building
162 Ryders Lane New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Raising Ms. President is a new documentary about the next generation of female political leaders. It explores some of the reasons women do not run for office and uncovers where political ambition begins. For more information email jenuo@eden.rutgers.edu or felise.ortiz@rutgers.edu.

To learn more about the film visit http://raisingsmspresident.com/

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CY8UIBKo1ek
Panelists

**Erica Klemens**
A Rutgers Alumna who is currently working as the Director of constituent and legislative services for Assemblywoman Betty DeCroce

**Lynda Lloyd**
One the youngest South Ward District Leaders in the City of Newark who is currently running for Newark City Council

**Christine Buteas**
A former councilwoman for South Plainfield and current Vice President of the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey
Reflections on the Social Action Project Experience

• The Mission is worth the Madness.

• Not only is the personal, political but the political is often BETTER executed when it is personal.

• Social justice based women’s leadership has been and will continue to be a force to be reckoned with.
Jennifer’s Bibliography


Felise’s Bibliography


