

Subject: Thank You for Applying to a PCCC Candidate Training
From: Progressive Change Campaign Committee <info@BoldProgressives.org>
To: derrick.r.miller@gmail.com
Date Sent: Monday, April 10, 2017 4:19:21 PM GMT-04:00
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PROGRESSIVE CHANGE
CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
BOLDPROGRESSIVES.ORG

Derrick,

Thank you for submitting your application to attend a PCCC Candidate Training! We are reviewing applications on a rolling basis, so you can expect a reply within a week. Qualified applicants will be invited to do a brief phone interview, after which we will make a final decision.

If you are accepted, the training is free to attend and will run from 9 AM to 6 PM with a happy hour to follow. Attendees will be responsible for their own travel and lodging. In addition to the training, each attendee will also receive a copy of our Running for Office guide and a T-shirt — free!

Your application details are below.

Thanks!

--Lucy Sedwick, PCCC Training Director

Derrick Miller
derrick.r.miller@gmail.com
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401
919-271-9175

Trainings Applied For:
Raleigh, NC -- Saturday, May 13th - Sunday, May 14th (2 days)

What's your age?
35_44

What's your gender?
Male

How did you find out about this training?

Other

When will you run for office?

I am not sure.

What office are you running for?



Why do you want to run for office?

With the November 2016 elections, I had an immediate sense that it is my duty to stick my neck out to help defend our democracy and our more vulnerable neighbors however I can. I have a

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great deal of privilege and some measure of talent, which I felt I must put to use as best I could, so I became more engaged. Since then, over the course of the last few months of my increased activism, I've found that my social circles have expanded exponentially and, with it, my community awareness. I've never felt more connected to my community, and I want to do all the more for all of us. I'm eager to intervene where I can and to help build the bench of progressive Democratic candidates, however I can. It's not just Trump who must be stopped---as a North Carolinian, it's clear to me how badly we need to take the state legislature out of Republican hands. What they do when they have their gerrymandered supermajorities is ruining our state and is hurting the lives of so many here.

Tell us about a time you made a change on a progressive issue in your community.

I attended my first Democratic Party precinct meeting in February, and stepped into the role of precinct chair. In that role, I authored and passed two resolutions: one calling for nonpartisan redistricting and one calling for North Carolina to enter the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. This month I attended my first Democratic Party county convention (where my resolutions were also passed) and I ran to be one of our county's members to the State Executive Committee. Our nominating committee had nominated a slate of 14 people, none of whom were members of the LGBTQIA community. I asked a friend to nominate me from the floor. Then, I asked the delegates in attendance to elect a more diverse slate than the one presented, and I won a spot on the SEC. In fact, I received the most votes from the male slate. (As per the Plan of Organization, two separate slates are ran so that there is parity among those self-identified as male and those self-identified as female.) So, I managed to increase the diversity in this leadership body by putting myself out there. I hope that this modest achievement is only the start.

What is one instance in your life that best exemplifies your leadership?

Since the November 2016 elections, I've gotten involved in a local Indivisible-inspired group. At first, I just showed up, just contributing my presence as support. But, by the time of the Betsy DeVos nomination, I decided that I, as a beneficiary of a public education and now a public educator, wanted to lead an action against that particularly egregious attack on public education. I simply posted a time to assemble at Senator Burr's office to my main group's Facebook page and to a few other allied groups' pages as well. Then, I began calling and messaging friends asking if they could come and if they could help spread the word. They did, and the effect multiplied. I took their advice, too. My older friends, seasoned veterans from ACT UP, suggested a visual prop---I took a bowl of red apples---to help make the point that we were supporting education. By the end, we had about 50-75 people on a workday afternoon and great publicity, from the press and on social media. (We were mentioned on All in With Chris Hayes together with my selfie from the action.) We repeated this same strategy when our Congressman David Rouzer finally gave a townhall---on a Monday afternoon in a rural corner of his district --- and we filled the 1500-seat auditorium for two hours of pointed, critical, well-spoken, and well-informed questions. So this is my leadership style: willing to show up, willing to initiate, organize, and spearhead, but also collaborative and open to advice, willing to learn, and willing to delegate as appropriate. I want to engage other people in a movement, let them use their strengths and let them shine, all for our mutual endeavor.

Running for office is hard work. Tell us why you are up to the challenge.

I am lucky to have a job where I have a great deal of autonomy, flexibility, and security. I can complete the majority of my work on my own schedule. (I'm a tenured professor.) I also have no pressing family or financial obligations. This allows me a wide latitude to work a campaign as a second, full-time job. And, in the words of a volunteer colleague who nominated me as a candidate for the NCDP SEC, when he nominated me, he called me a tireless activist. (I won that election.) I understand that the bulk of the work of a candidate is constantly knocking on doors, making calls, asking for support, and especially asking for donations. I'm willing to overcome fears and move beyond my comfort zone to do these things. In short, I'm willing to learn to love the grunt work of campaigning. I'm looking at the current volunteer activities that I'm doing (like cold calls to organize my precinct and phone banking for Jon Ossoff in GA) as practice for the work I'll have to undertake for myself.

Who is your political superhero and why?

The late Hazel Dickens, bluegrass musician from West Virginia. Her songs about coal miners' struggles to organize and the injustices they faced, as well as her own risks on the picket line, inspire me with her courage and compassion. Living: Rev. William Barber, president of NC chapter of NAACP and founder of Moral Monday marches. To hear him speak, to see him in action is to know that his is a modern-day prophetic voice. I've driven to Raleigh multiple times since November to answer his call to assemble and to protest, and every time I've walked away inspired by our strength and by the rightness of our cause. At the same time though, I will always carry that conviction humbly and stay willing and open to being challenged in my own certitude and comfort.

I am interested in learning how to...(1 not at all to 5 teach me everything!)

Ask for money 5

Expand my donor network 4

Develop my message 5

Run a great field program 5

Use my volunteers well 5

Speak on camera 4

Use effective progressive messaging based on polling data 4

Want to support the Warren wing? Senator Elizabeth Warren says, "When PCCC members donate millions in small-dollar donations and make millions of phone calls for progressive candidates, leaders in Washington, they take notice." [Chip in \\$3 here.](#)

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