Civic Engagement and Leadership
Tuesdays; 2-4:50pm; VKC Rm 204

POSC 323: Applied Politics; Section 51958; Fall 2014

Experience How to Grow and Manage a Nonprofit First-hand!

DOING
Have you wanted to “do” something meaningful as part of your class work? Do you like working with children and combining your volunteer activities with your education? This course provides an exciting opportunity for students to combine theory with a “hands-on” project in youth civic engagement and leadership. This class will work with our local community schools to bring the Penny Harvest (see below) to Los Angeles. Students in the class will learn and reflect on leadership, civic engagement and research skills as we teach children to become empowered citizens. This is a great way to build networks and start to address a wide array of social justice issues in Los Angeles.

ENROLLING
All undergraduates are invited to apply. Class size is limited. First come, first served!

BACKGROUND
The Penny Harvest was created, and is operated by Common Cents New York, an educational institution that designs innovative school-based programs to foster ethical citizenship and student leadership. The Penny Harvest empowers children from every life circumstance – even the poorest – to become socially engaged philanthropists in school. The program is designed to connect classroom learning to real world issues, giving students an outlet to address issues affecting their communities through philanthropy and service-learning. It builds strong ties between students and caring adults and between isolated schools and their surrounding community. The Penny Harvest currently reaches more than 400,000 students in 700 NYC schools, with affiliates across the country and abroad. The goal of the Penny Harvest is to involve children (aged 4-14) in identifying and addressing needs in their neighborhoods and across the globe to help “lessen the national problem of Americans’ civic disengagement from their communities and from each other.” (See http://www.commoncents.org/).