

# Modjeska Simkins School for Human Rights

## Application for Organizer/Leadership Training, 2015 Summer Session

One of the Modjeska School's prime missions is to teach grassroots activists the best practices for understanding, organizing and leading a movement for social justice in South Carolina. The 2015 Summer School session consists of six classes, held the first and third Mondays between June and August. Students will meet for 90-minute classes (45 minutes of instruction; 45 minutes of guided discussion) running 7pm-8:30pm at Conundrum Music Hall, 626 Meeting St. in West Columbia.

Enrollment is open to individual members of the SC Progressive Network. To apply, prospective students must fill out and submit this form, indicate a commitment to attend all six classes, and complete required homework. A \$120 fee covers expenses, class materials, personal copies of Howard Zinn's *A People's History* and the book *A place at the Table*. Fees may be paid monthly; scholarships are available to those who otherwise would not be able to attend. We encourage sponsorships by organizations and individuals.

**Applicants, please complete this form, and be prepared for a brief follow-up telephone interview.**

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I, (print) \_\_\_\_\_, am a dues-current member of the SC Progressive Network and want to attend the Modjeska School's 2015 Summer Session. I commit to attending all classes, complete reading and class assignments, and use what I learn to help strengthen the progressive movement in South Carolina.

I can pay \$120       I can pay monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_       I need a scholarship

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Best time and number to call me for interview: \_\_\_\_\_

### Class schedule

**June 1, People's History of South Carolina, Part 1:** Exploring the historic dynamics that shape the state's politics and culture, from native people through the Civil War.

**June 15, People's History, Part 2:** From Reconstruction to today, with a projection about what lies ahead.

**July 6, Palmetto Politics:** How does our history influence our current democracy and civic engagement? This reality-based civics course is critical to enable activists to be effective political organizers.

**July 20, SC Progressive Network history:** The SC Progressive Network was founded in 1995 by activists with decades of toil in this state's mean vineyards. Much can be learned and gained from studying the work that has gone into one of the nation's best models of state-based movement building.

**Aug. 3, Strategy and Tactics:** What are our sharpest tools for building and sustaining a popular movement for a revolution of social values? We will examine tactics ranging from armed insurrection to prayer; review strategists from Lao Tzu and Jesus, to Che, Malcolm X and MLK. What skills are necessary and what resources do we have?

**Aug. 17, Enough Theory; Let's Practice!** To graduate, our students will design and launch an actual organizing project. Over the years, the Network has started sound projects that didn't gain the traction they deserve simply because we lack trained and dedicated organizers to carry them to completion. We don't need to reinvent the wheel, we need to grease it.