

Reps. Patricia Bellock and Kathy Ryg discuss the NEW Leadership program for women; Coming to UIC in June
Transcript

Rep. Patricia Bellock: "It's a dynamic program run by all the women legislators in Springfield, and it's bipartisan, and I think that's what's really exciting about it, is that you're working with all the women in government in Illinois."

Rep. Kathy Ryg: "The young women, and the women of all ages who participate, they can have one-on-one time with elected officials, and learn how they got to be where they are."

Rep. Bellock: "And it's a challenge to work on public policy, and we feel as women in Illinois that that's what we want to do to make government better in Illinois. So, you have the chance and the opportunity to work with all these women, and we bring them downtown to meet all the constitutional officers, they meet some of the Supreme Court justices, it's a fascinating program that only a few young women are allowed to participate in."

Rep. Ryg: "One of the things that I think is so valuable is, we spend time in that dorm all night long, talking about our life experiences, how it led elected officials to run and get office, and how the participants can translate our experiences to their futures as well."

Rep. Bellock: "I wouldn't miss it for anything, the chance to do that. I never had a chance to do something like that, and we provide the opportunity of five days of intense training to be in public life, and then hopefully, that they will return and do something in public life,"

Rep. Ryg: "And I know there will be times watching the news someday, and they'll be with their families saying, you know, I was in the dorm with that person before they were the governor, the first woman governor of Illinois, hopefully. So we have a great opportunity to really give them experiences that will mean things for their entire life."

Rep. Bellock: "Because we think that women leaders are where it's at in the future."