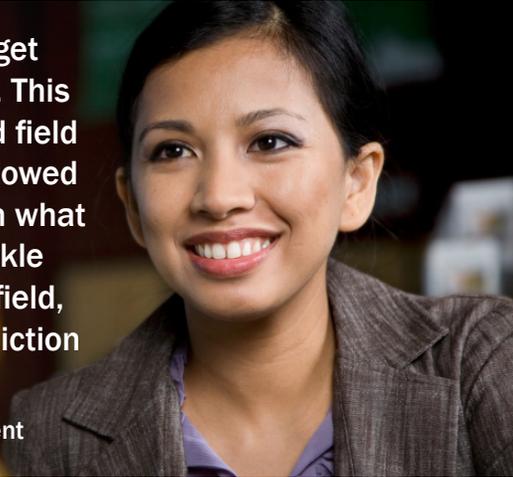


## New Curriculum Helps Students Explore Careers

“ I was unsure how to get the right information. This class opened a broad field of resources...that allowed me to concentrate on what I really needed to tackle to get to my desired field, drug and alcohol addiction counseling. ”

–Career Foundations student



Imagine you were unable to finish high school because you had to help support your family. Now, 15 years later, stuck in a low-paying retail job, you know you need to get a degree in order to get a better job. So you enroll in a GED program.

But nobody's ever talked to you about careers—your options, your interests, what careers suit your talents. You have no idea what your dream job is, much less how to work towards it.

Every year in Chicago, thousands of women find themselves in this situation: enrolled in a GED program with no idea how to move forward. **Now Women Employed has partnered with City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) to give these students an exciting new resource to help them choose a career path.**

WE and CCC have created a Career Foundations course that provides students with the opportunity to explore the range of career options available to them, assess their own talents and interests to see which careers might be a good match, and create a solid plan that will help them transition into the appropriate degree or certificate program to reach their career goals.

Sounds like a simple concept, but it's actually revolutionary. Until now, classes like this have not existed within adult education or GED programs. This course is being offered not only at CCC, but also through several community-based organizations in the Chicagoland area. And Women Employed has made the curriculum for the course available free of charge to other colleges, adult education programs, and organizations nationwide. This new resource will enable thousands of students in Chicago and across the country to pursue careers that will lead to a brighter future.

To learn more about the Career Foundations curriculum, visit [womenemployed.org/PTCNetwork](http://womenemployed.org/PTCNetwork)

## Meet Valerie Jarrett on May 14th!



Join us for *The Working Lunch!* We're thrilled to announce that Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, will headline this year's event. Don't miss your chance to see her and network with 1,000 Chicagoland leaders at Women Employed's signature event.

**Thursday, May 14, 2015**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**The Fairmont Millennium Park**

Learn more and get tickets:  
[womenemployed.org/  
 TheWorkingLunch](http://womenemployed.org/TheWorkingLunch)

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OPENING DOORS, BREAKING BARRIERS, AND CREATING FAIRER WORKPLACES FOR WOMEN SINCE 1973

## Chicago Voters Want Paid Sick Days

During February's election, an overwhelming majority of voters—82 percent—stood up for Chicago workers. They said yes to a ballot question asking if employers in the city should be required to provide paid sick days. This is a critical issue for the 460,000 workers in Chicago who currently lack even a single paid sick day to care for themselves or their sick family members. And Chicagoans aren't alone in believing that workers should be able to take the time they need to get better. **Nationwide, a great majority of voters—across all demographic and political groups—support policies that allow workers to earn paid sick time.**

WE is on the frontlines of this issue, working to help build momentum by telling the stories of workers who have to choose between their health and their paycheck. We're educating lawmakers and the public about the cost to business and the community when employees come to work sick. And it appears we're at a tipping point: voters aren't just talking about their support anymore. They're taking action. Eighteen cities and three states have passed sick days legislation, almost all in the past two years.

Now Chicago has the opportunity to join them. **Women Employed spearheads the Earned Sick Time Chicago coalition that is fighting for paid sick days in the city, and we're working to pass a**

**city ordinance that would allow all workers to earn five to nine days of paid sick leave per year.** Workers can use the days to care for themselves or an ill family member, or to attend medical appointments. They can also use the time to handle domestic or sexual violence issues. If you live in the city, tell your alderman you don't think anyone should have to choose between their health and a paycheck! Don't live in Chicago? Call your U.S. legislators and urge them to support the Healthy Families Act, a similar federal bill.

