

# THE FOGGY BOTTOM CURRENT

## Neighborhood College

The Neighborhood College program, run by the George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership, is proving itself to be a positive force in the city.

Now in its seventh year, the Neighborhood College enrolls civic leaders with experience in influencing positive change in their communities. Participants attend classes for three days a month and can receive continuing-education course credit. The program is free, thanks to grants from the District government.

Over the past 11 months, nine teams have collaborated on community-related projects focusing on education, crime, green jobs, unemployment and similar issues. This Friday at 6:30 p.m., the teams will present their work, followed by a question-and-answer period and feedback session.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the D.C. Council's hearing room at the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW.

Last year's annual session hatched a range of creative ideas. One, a program called Bikes 4 Brains, awards new bikes to elementary school students who earn good grades. Another proposal paved the way for a D.C. Nightlife Summit, a gathering of legislators, residents and liquor-licensees aimed at improving safety for the city's after-hours scene.

Small positive changes can have a ripple effect on our communities. We commend George Washington University for creating and maintaining this program and look forward to its continuing successes.