

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Congressman, Grassroots Expert and Homeless Veterans Advocate Teach Students Political Skills on Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

ALEXANDRIA, Va., January 15, 2018 – Students at [Episcopal High School](#) heard from a local congressman, an advocate for homeless veterans and a veteran Capitol Hill grassroots expert today as part of a day-long series of events to commemorate the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. on the federal holiday marking the birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

“Our mission here today was to teach students the value of civic participation and grassroots activity,” [Dynamics in Public Affairs](#) Founder and Principal Marsha Padilla-Goad said. “We want them to understand and appreciate the role grassroots advocacy has played and continues to play in influencing laws and policies that improve the lives of citizens, bring economic stability to communities, and help businesses thrive.”

Padilla-Goad is a veteran grassroots advocate who had organized highly successful campaigns and programs in Washington and across the nation over the past 20 years for Leading Age, the National Retail Federation and other organizations.

In a workshop on grassroots conducted by Padilla-Goad at the school today, students heard from Representative Don Beyer, D-Va, and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Policy Director Joshua Stewart. Students also engaged in a hands-on grassroots letter-writing exercise to get a feel for what it is like to participate in a public policy call-to-action. The letter-writing exercise focused on asking Congress to continue to fund veterans programs that help end chronic homelessness and provide medical care to veterans with the most significant needs.

Dynamics in Public Affairs is a nonpartisan public affairs firm specializing in services including grassroots advocacy strategies and campaign development, advocacy workshops, legislative fly-ins and program evaluation.