

# RPV Ambassador Program

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*The RPV Ambassador Program is modeled after the successful Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series, which began in Indiana in 1990. Other state programs include the 1993 Illinois Lincoln Series, the 1998 New Jersey Whitman Series and 2000 Ohio Davidson Series.*

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## MISSION

The Mission of the RPV Ambassador Program is to increase the number of effective Republican men and women from diverse backgrounds in public service and party leadership by providing extensive training and support as they pursue their political and/or professional goals. The successful completion of this political leadership development program will prepare, motivate and inspire Republican leaders from every cultural and ethnic community to assume key roles in political and public life.

## OBJECTIVES

- To encourage, support and prepare participants to assume leadership positions in Virginia government and politics by providing a comprehensive training program.
- To serve as a forum, as well as a resource, for participants to achieve greater talent in the fields of government and politics, and further their public service ambitions.
- To provide qualified participants with access to the political and state government leaders responsible for candidate recruitment and appointments.
- To provide a model for men and women across the Commonwealth to take initiative, become involved politically and gain influence in public policy and service.
- To establish an effective statewide political network that will support diverse Republican leaders and increase opportunities throughout their political careers.
- To educate new leaders in the art of professional politics, as well as the state and federal governing process.

### **The program fulfills these critical objectives by:**

- Affirming that existing leadership skills can and should be used in government and politics;
- Introducing participants to the people and resources that will enable their success as political leaders;
- Helping participants to define or refine their own political aspirations.

## **CURRICULUM**

The RPV Ambassador Program is a program designed to encourage and train business and civic leaders to assume more prominent roles, elected or appointed, in government and in the Republican Party. It is also a network of diverse Republican leaders that provide a resource for each other and guidance for the next generation of Republican leaders.

The program's curriculum includes several day-long seminars, one day each month from May through September, to be held in Richmond. The "Hill Seminar" will be conducted in Washington, D.C.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Ambassador Program shall be governed by a Board of Directors comprised of men and women from across Virginia with proven leadership capabilities in business, education, government and politics. A chairman of the Board shall be elected from among the Founding Members, with staff support provided through the Republican Party of Virginia. Founding Members shall serve as honorary members [further honorary members may be appointed upon consideration by the Board].

- The Board of Directors shall serve a term of two years. After which time, a new board would be voted on by the outgoing board. Directors may continue to serve past two years if elected.
- The Board shall appoint one member to serve as Secretary or appoint an ex-officio member to record meeting minutes, accept applications for the program, and disseminate information to board members.
- The elected President of the Virginia Federation of Republican Women (VFRW) will be invited to serve as an Honorary Member of the Board of Directors, concurrent with her term in office.
- Each Director will conduct a monthly session. The Chairman of the Board will oversee the annual kickoff and one other session.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Each year the Board shall select up to 25 potential Republican leaders from around the state to receive this specialized training in politics and public service. The members are chosen by the program's Board of Directors after an extensive review and interview process.

Participants in the program are selected on the basis of their leadership skills in their chosen fields of work or service to the community. Those candidates whose applications demonstrate commitment and interest in public/political service will be invited to interview. The purpose of the interview process is to evaluate each candidate's leadership potential, communication skills, general presence, and sincerity of commitment to public/political service. Applicants who meet all of these criteria are

invited to participate in this fast-track political leadership development program.

**WHY THE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM IS NECESSARY**

Now more than ever we need qualified Republican men and women from diverse backgrounds to serve in government and as leaders in our Party. Participation in this political leadership development program will provide individuals with access to the mentors and resources needed to understand the political process and a greater opportunity to participate in politics and public service.

Plan of Organization 2017