

HONORING THE FUTURE

The University of Virginia
The Sorensen Institute
for Political Leadership

“Guided by these four values—access, collaboration, communities, and impact—the Cooper Center is reimagining what public service means, how the work is carried out, and who is included in the conversation. Through our research, leadership development programs, and local government engagement initiatives, we continue to work toward our vision of good governance, equity, and resilience in every Virginia community.”

WELDON COOPER CENTER 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

To advance the Cooper Center’s promise to reimagine public service, the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership focuses on creating 21st century leaders who are dedicated to serving the common good. Inspired by the Cooper Center’s new approach, we help develop engaged and ethical public servants who reflect and support an increasingly diverse statewide and national population.

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Founded in 1993, the Sorensen Institute, a unit within the Cooper Center, serves the commonwealth by developing knowledgeable, ethical leaders who are dedicated to nonpartisanship, community impact, and public service. Since its first class enrolled in 1994, more than 2,200 have graduated from the institute’s programs. Many Sorensen alumni have held elected positions at all levels of Virginia government. Others have served in critical positions of leadership in nonprofits, appointed government positions, and the private sector. Today, more than 25 of our alumni serve in the Virginia General Assembly.



RESTORING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM BEGINS WITH THE EDUCATION OF OUR LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS.

SORENSEN PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Political Leaders

Our flagship Political Leaders Program designed for Virginia residents already engaged in political, civic, business, nonprofit, or governing service who are interested in developing further to become political and civic leaders in the commonwealth.

Emerging Leaders

Leadership development for Virginians early in their career who seek positions of greater responsibility within government, communities, and in executive or legislative branches of government.

Candidate Training

Bipartisan campaign training for those interested in running for public office or taking on senior roles in campaigns. This is an intensive, in-depth program focused on the fundamentals of a winning campaign for public office.

High School Leaders

An engaging and concentrated study of history, civics, politics, and government to motivate high school students to become effective participants and leaders in their communities and schools.

22nd Century Scholars

Internships offered with partners in UVA's Karsh Institute of Democracy. Students have studied crises and opportunities faced by past Virginia governors to learn best practices, effective leadership, and how to make an impact on public policy. Most recently, they examined Virginia transportation policy, interacting with various transportation leaders and officials.

YOUR SUPPORT

The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and its successful programs play an important role in the Weldon Cooper Center's strategic plan for "Reimagining Public Service." Gifts to enhance leadership development programs, offer more internships, and expand educational opportunities will contribute to improved and informed political leadership.

Your support is critical to further our efforts to prepare leaders in government and communities for future challenges and opportunities, helping to fulfill our shared vision of good governance, equity, and resilience in every Virginia community.

To learn more, please visit sorensen.coopercenter.org.

HONOR
the **FUTURE**

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

CONTACT

Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service
coopercenter@virginia.edu | 434-243-5232