APPLICATION PROCESS

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A complete application packet includes: applicant information sheet, essay, resume, biographical sketch, recommendation form and application fee.

Applications are available online at www.vcu.edu/gehli, or you may request an application by contacting the Institute at (804) 827-1169 or gehli@vcu.edu.

TUITION

The participant fee includes curriculum materials, lodging and meals. Tuition may be paid by either a sponsoring organization or the individual. Accepted participants are responsible for securing appropriate release time from work for all training events and for their transportation to and from program sessions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Virginia Commonwealth University
The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute
916 West Franklin Street
P.O. Box 842534
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2534
Phone: (804) 827-1169
Fax: (804) 827-1238
Email: gehli@vcu.edu
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MPLI HELPED TO ENHANCE MY ROLE AS A LEADER IN MY COMMUNITY. IT HAS GIVEN ME MULTIPLE LENSES AND PERSPECTIVES TO ANALYZE COMPLEX ISSUES. THE PROGRAM AUGMENTED MY DESIRE TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN NEW ISSUES AND REMINDED ME OF THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A VOICE FOR THE UNHEARD.

— Lashrecse D. Aird, legislative aide, Delegate Roslyn R. Dance, 63rd District
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Minority Political Leadership Institute is a collaborative initiative of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Foundation and The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute at Virginia Commonwealth University. MPLI is an intensive seven-month experience designed to promote leadership development for individuals interested in issues important to minority communities including: community economics, political climate, civic engagement and racial equity. MPLI offers insights regarding leadership legacy and culture, personal leadership, policy and legislative processes, responsible stewardship, public service, and integrity for future leaders. Each program year, participants engage and interact with communities across Virginia and learn about unique strengths and issues facing different regions of the Commonwealth.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

» Identify cutting-edge solutions to challenges affecting minority communities across the Commonwealth
» Expand knowledge regarding the nature of public policy, legislative structures and political entities in Virginia
» Assess and enhance current leadership skills in relationship to community needs, coalition building, conflict resolution, transformational leadership, cross-cultural competencies and creating a vision for progress
» Use skills in consensus building, conflict management, critical thinking and ethics to become a more effective leader in political systems
» Understand the significance and impact of traditional and new media in political life
» Gain valuable insights in personal leadership style
» Experience politics in action to garner effective networks
» Engage communities across Virginia in intensive and interactive program sessions
» Develop a broad awareness of the roles and challenges — as well as the potential opportunities — for minorities and others to provide leadership for Virginia's future
» Expand your understanding of the nature of leadership, public policy processes and community change
» Actively participate in public-service projects addressing a current need within a minority community
» Gain applied knowledge from seasoned leaders and professionals

AS A PARTICIPANT YOU WILL:

» Meet and directly interact with Virginia Legislative Black Caucus legislators, senior elected officials, appointed officials in the governor’s office, local officials and leaders across the Commonwealth
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Participating in MPLI allowed me to interact with amazing people in various and diverse circles. Through this expanded network, I have forged new friendships, learned more about critical issues facing our communities, gained personal leadership skills and obtained a closer look at Virginia politics.

– Tanya Gonzalez, manager, Richmond Office of Multicultural Affairs
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\[\text{MPLI helped to enhance my role as a leader in my community. It has given me multiple lenses and perspectives to analyze complex issues. The program augmented my desire to take an interest in new issues and reminded me of the importance of being a voice for the unheard.}\]
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