

VLGMA Newsletter
Civic Engagement – Sorensen Institute Article
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Trust, Civility and Respect – VLGMA’s Shared Ground with Sorensen Institute

Our adopted ICMA Code of Ethics is interwoven with the non-partisan mission of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. Founded in 1993 to bring together diverse individuals with a passion for politics and public service, Sorensen now conducts five annual programs and numerous special events. “Sorensen teaches efficiency, civic engagement and dedication,” recalls a recent graduate. Our ICMA Ethics Code Tenet 2 calls for “a deep sense of social responsibility as a trusted public servant” and Tenet 3 highlights a “dedication to the highest ideals of honor and integrity”.

Through the civic, community and candidate leadership development programs conducted by Sorensen, a cadre of informed Virginians is emerging that are dedicated to our ICMA mission of “excellence in governance”. The core values Trust, Civility and Respect are the hallmarks of each program and event sponsored by the Sorensen Institute. Thereby underscoring a natural bridge between VLGMA and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership.

The five programs are: Political Leaders, Candidate Training, Emerging Leaders, College Leaders and High School Leaders. The application acceptance for the Emerging Leaders Program for young professionals between 22 -32 begins April 1, 2016. The application process, deadlines, cost and eligibility requirements for the four other programs are later in the year and can be viewed on the Sorensen Institute web site (www.sorenseninstitute.org)

Bob Gibson, Sorensen’s Executive Director, was a key presenter during our Winter Conference last month. Following his VLGMA presentation he said, “having local government officials as presenters and regional advisory board members have been a key component of the success” of the Sorensen programs. The Institute’s declaration and mission of “strengthening the quality of governance at all levels” (Tenet 4) is another key bridge between VLGMA & Sorensen. This is achieved by a variety of leadership programs designed around ethics, public policy and practical politics.

The 2016 Spring Gala, Honoring Virginia Women in Leadership, Tuesday, April 19 is the next statewide public Sorensen Institute event. For details on this event or other programs of the institute visit: www.sorenseninstitute.org or contact, bob.gibson@virginia.edu / 434-982-4998.