



VIRGINIA LEADERS

Linking leaders with a statewide view

Volume 1, Issue 3
December 2006

A New Tradition: Alumni Awards

Douglas B. (Doug) McDonald '05 is the first recipient of the **Service to LEAD VIRGINIA Award**, presented at The Jefferson Hotel on November 17. The award recognizes the LEAD VIRGINIA graduate who has given most generously of time, talents and efforts during the past year and who demonstrates extraordinary dedication.

Doug has served diligently as pro bono general counsel to LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors to ensure a firm legal foundation. He is a steady, reliable and effective advocate, guiding LEAD VIRGINIA through incorporation, 501(c)(3) designation, the trademark process and various other legal requirements and challenges. He is also an effective recruiter for future participants and the board and served as 2006 Co-Chair of the Northern Virginia session.

Doug is a partner in Venable LLP's Business Division in Vienna.

The Honorable Mary Katherine (Kate) Berger '05 is the first recipient of **The Virginia Leader Award**. The award is presented to the LEAD VIRGINIA graduate who demonstrates an ongoing commitment to gaining deeper insights into complex statewide issues, building social capital and creating momentum for positive change for the Commonwealth. The recipient provides a role model for effective civic engagement.

Kate serves as Chairwoman of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors, breaking ground as the first woman elected to this position. She presides over all meetings and makes appointments to all the committees for the geographically largest county in the state. She also played a key role in bringing vital program elements to our Class of 2006 during the Southside tour.

Kate is President/Owner of Southside Paralegal Services in Gretna.

Graduates of LEAD VIRGINIA's Inaugural Class of 2005 were the first group of alumni to be honored by these awards. The awards will be presented annually at graduation each November. Thus is born yet another new LEAD VIRGINIA tradition!



Photo Courtesy of Dementi Studio

Doug McDonald '05, Partner, Venable LLP and LEAD VIRGINIA's General Counsel with **Michel Zajur**, President, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and member, LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors

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Class of 2006 Graduation Highlights

LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors honored the Class of 2006 at a festive graduation reception, banquet and ceremony at The Jefferson Hotel on November 17. Over 180 guests, including graduates, spouses, friends and alumni celebrated successful completion of the program by 100% of the class.

Highlights of the evening included presentation of a Certificate of Recognition signed by **Governor Timothy Kaine** and an inspiring message by **The Honorable Susan B. Horne '06**, elected Class Speaker. The Class of 2006 presented a class gift of over \$5,000 to the Susan

Timmons Scholarship Fund, following the tradition started by the Class of 2005. This scholarship fund makes it possible for individuals to participate in the program who otherwise could not afford it.

In her keynote address, **The Honorable Katherine K. Hanley**, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, offered insights into opportunities for LEAD VIRGINIA's graduates to serve the Commonwealth in meaningful civic engagement. **Susan Timmons, President and CEO**, presented alumni awards to **Doug McDonald '05** and **Kate Berger '05**, followed by the award of certificates and

pins to all 2006 graduates. The evening was capped by a drawing for travel certificates donated by JetBlue Airways and won by **John Downey '06**.



Photo Courtesy of Dementi Studio

The Honorable Katherine Hanley, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia and member, LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors

Application Deadlines:

January 10, 2007

Position of President and CEO

January 16, 2007

Participation in Class of 2007

Please visit www.leadva.org for application procedures and other details



Julien Patterson '05, President of OMNIPLEX World Services Corporation with **Hugh Keogh**, President/CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce. Both are members of LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors

“LEAD VIRGINIA has opened our eyes and our hearts to OUR Commonwealth. The steps we take tomorrow and the next day and the day after that will affect not only our future, but the future of our children’s children. It is up to us to be the community champions we are called to be and shape that future—and ultimately share in the destiny that we all collectively own.”

- Susan Horne '06, President, Leadership Fairfax and member, LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors



Kimberley Hutchinson '06, Director of Development, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia and LEAD VIRGINIA's newly elected Alumni Committee Chair

Profile: Julien G. Patterson

A feature in each issue of **VIRGINIA LEADERS** is a profile of one of the leaders comprising LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors, alumni and participants.

This issue's profile is of **Julien G. Patterson '05**, President & CEO, OMNIPLEX World Services Corporation and member, LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors.

With a career background in the CIA, **Julien G. Patterson '05** has guided the company he founded 15 years ago, OMNIPLEX World Services Corporation, to a worldwide security business now projecting \$100 million in annual revenue this

year with two wholly owned subsidiaries and approximately 3,500 employees worldwide.

OMNIPLEX, a privately held ISO 9001 certified company, is a leading provider of high quality security services and innovative investigative solutions for prestigious government and commercial customers. Numerous professional, business and community service awards include:

2006 Top 15 “Best Places to Work” in Greater Washington, D.C., from the *Washington Business Journal*.

2005 Large Business of the Year Award from the Herndon Dulles Chamber of Commerce.

2005 Top 100 Black-Owned Service/Industrial Firms in the Nation from *Black Enterprise Magazine*.

2004 Entrepreneur of the Year Award from the VA Regional Minority Supplier Development Council.

Julien graduated from LEAD VIRGINIA in the Inaugural Class of 2005 and now serves on LEAD VIRGINIA's Board of Directors.

Julien also serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce as First Vice Chairman with his term as Chairman to begin in January 2007.

New Board Members

LEAD VIRGINIA welcomes three new members to the Board of Directors:

Heather Gold '06, Senior Vice-President, Government Relations, XO Communications, Reston.

Katherine (Kate) Hanley, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia, representing the Office of the Governor, Richmond.

Kimberley (Kim) Hutchinson '06, Director of Development,

Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Kim also serves on LEAD VIRGINIA's Executive Committee as the elected Chair of the Alumni Committee.

Alumni Committee

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of LEAD VIRGINIA's Alumni Committee:

Chair: Kimberley (Kim) Hutchinson '06, Director of Development, Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Vice-Chair: Chandra Lantz '06, Partner, Hirschler Fleischer, P.C., Richmond

Second Vice-Chair: Elissa Ecker '06, Vice President of Human Resources, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Richmond

Secretary: Donna Fleming '05, Executive Director, College Summit of the National Capital Region, Washington, D.C.

Treasurer: Stephen Fishel '06, Partner, Valdaras & Fishel, PC, Glen Allen

Historian: Karen Raschke '05, President/CEO, The Virginia League for Planned Parenthood, Inc., Richmond

Communications Liaisons:

2005 - Lisa Fultz '05, Director, Small and Minority Business Development, Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation, Martinsville

2006 - Amy Nisenon '06, Vice President and Community Affairs Manager - Central Region, Wachovia Corporation, Richmond

Regional Representatives:

Southside: Mary Katherine

(Kate) Berger '05, President/Owner, Southside Paralegal Service, Gretna

Valley: William (Bill) Figaro '05, Owner/CEO, Grow! LLC, Vinton

Northern VA: Robert (Bob) Steere '06, Principal, Steere Consulting Partners LLC, Loudoun

Southwest VA: Marcia Quesenberry '06, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor, University of Virginia's College at Wise, Wise

Hampton Roads: Jeffrey (Jeff) Wassmer '05, President/CEO, Spectrum Comm Inc., Hampton

Richmond: Cherry Evans '06, Director of Communications and Education, Department of Aviation, Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond

Fall Reflections

LEAD VIRGINIA's 2006 program year ended with engaging and thought-provoking visits to Southwest Virginia, Hampton Roads and Richmond.

During their two-day trip to Southwest Virginia in September, participants of the Class of 2006 were enthused by the "can-do attitude" and "regional cooperation" demonstrated by local leaders. This program took participants out of the lecture room for a unique, hands-on session that one participant described as "one of the best." Visits to The University of Virginia's College at Wise and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon introduced the class members to unique challenges and successes experienced by the region in the areas of education, culture and technology. A highlight of the session was learning about the impact of coal mining on Southwest

Virginia's economy through excursions to the Powell River Project, a surface coal mine, and Mountain Rose Vineyard, a vineyard cultivated on reclaimed mine land.

"Outstanding session, just like all the rest!" declared one member of the Class of 2006 on LEAD VIRGINIA's October program in Hampton Roads. Visits to the Port of Virginia and Norfolk Naval Station allowed participants to "see first-hand the impact of both the military and the port terminal on the economy of the region." Additional insight into the transportation, education and economic issues of the area were provided by an array of speakers and panelists on a harbor cruise, as well as at Christopher Newport University, Tidewater Community College, Kaufman & Canoles, Hampton Roads Smart Traffic Center, Chrysler Museum of Art and Thomas Nelson Community College Peninsula Workforce Development Center.

The final 2006 program in Richmond in November was essential for "bringing together the LEAD VIRGINIA experience." Dinner and a roundtable discussion with community leaders at the Valentine Richmond History Center was followed the next day by breakfast at the Executive Mansion with Virginia's **First Lady Anne Holton**, and panels on economic development; healthcare, supply distribution and financial services; and education. The culmination of the Richmond program was a session on "Capturing the Experience," offering class members the opportunity to discuss in break-out groups and as a class what they gained from LEAD VIRGINIA.

"Thanks for a wonderful year," said one member of the Class of 2006 at the conclusion of the program year. "This was an incredible growth experience."



Cherry Evans '06, Director of Communications and Education, Department of Aviation, Commonwealth of Virginia at Mountain Rose Vineyard, Southwest Virginia

"I highly recommend LEAD VIRGINIA to anyone wanting not only to learn more about how the state works, but also to be inspired to do something about it."

- 2006 Participant

Application Deadline for Class of 2007:

January 16, 2007

Opening/Orientation Session: April 19-21 in Williamsburg

In the News

Congratulations to

LEAD VIRGINIA:

Board of Directors

Julien Patterson '05 - appointed by **Governor Timothy Kaine** to the Commission on Health Reform; served as a panelist at the Minority Business Development Agency's MED Week Conference

Michel Zajur - joined the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Class of 2006

Shane Adams '06 - elected to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Board of Regents for the Institute for Organization Management; re-elected to the Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Executives Board of Directors; received the Star of Hope for fundraising related to P.U.S.H. America; named Director of Tourism for the Blacksburg/Christiansburg Visitors Center

Rob Brooke '06 - awarded the title of "Virginia Super Lawyer" by the *Law & Politics* 2006 edition

Stephen Fishel '06 - cited in *Work Magazine* for providing comment on the "Top 10 Financial Tips" for businesses

Leni Gonzalez '06 - re-elected Chair of the Latino Advisory Board

CAPT Scott Pollpeter '06 - now Commanding Officer, Naval Support Activity Norfolk, U.S. Navy

Gary Rhodes '06 - joined the Board of Directors of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce

Alumni

Kate Berger '05 - appointed by **Governor Timothy Kaine** to the Governor's Workforce Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee

CAPT Casey Collins '05 - now Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force Civil Support, U.S. Navy

Pete Schleck '05 - now Senior Vice President, Bank of America in Norfolk

Richard Reynolds '05 - joined the CASA Board

Please send news to:
akies@leadva.org



CAPT Scott Pollpeter '06, Chief of Staff, Joint Task Force Civil Support, U.S. Navy and **Dr. Bela Sood '06**, Professor, Psychiatry and Pediatrics, Chair, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and Medical Director, Virginia Treatment Center for Children, VCU Health System, aboard the U.S.S. Kearsarge at the Norfolk Naval Station



Linking leaders with a
statewide view

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Addie Kies, Executive Assistant
and Editor, VIRGINIA LEADERS

Web Site: www.leadva.org



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LEAD VIRGINIA's Mission

LEAD VIRGINIA links diverse proven leaders to promote a statewide perspective and improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth.

2006 Contributors

LEAD VIRGINIA proudly recognizes and expresses gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for their 2006 contributions :

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**Susan Timmons
Scholarship Fund**

Class of 2005
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Marvin Gilliam
OMNIPLEX World Services
The Harvest Foundation

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If we accidentally omitted any contributor, please accept our sincere apology and let us know immediately.

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LEAD VIRGINIA in 2007.**