



PRESS RELEASE

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Northern Virginia Chamber, Sorensen Institute Launch *Advancing Civics Partnership*

New Initiative Seeks to Bring Business, Government and Civic Leaders Together through Civil, Solutions-Oriented Collaboration

Tysons, VA – The [Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership](#) at the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service this week announced a first-of-its-kind partnership to encourage greater collaboration among Virginia’s current and future business and government leaders. The partnership, called [Advancing Civics](#), will begin hosting events in 2022 and recognize Virginia leaders who exemplify the kind of civic-minded collaboration the partnership intends to promote.

“The Sorensen Institute has a long history of providing Virginia’s future leaders with the tools they need to accomplish great things by working together,” said Lawrence Roberts, director of the Sorensen Institute. “The Chamber’s core values of integrity, equity and community make it a great partner for the Sorensen Institute to expand our presence in Northern Virginia and, together, we can make great strides toward fostering a more collaborative approach to solving problems in Virginia.”

The increasing use of divisive rhetoric and a declining willingness to seek compromise by public leaders were the driving reasons for forming the partnership, according to Chamber and Sorensen leadership. Both organizations place a strong emphasis on collaboration and believe working together will help encourage others to do the same.

“We believe that the Sorensen Institute’s history of bringing together diverse groups of Virginians and helping them understand the power of collaboration aligns with the Chamber’s focus on finding equitable solutions to the challenges businesses face,” said Julie Coons, President



and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce. “We are thrilled to embark on this new venture in 2022 and look forward to highlighting the efforts of government and business leaders who embody the kind of results-oriented, collaborative style this partnership seeks to encourage.”

To keep up to date on the work of *Advancing Civics*, sign up for updates [here](#).

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About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Originally founded in 1925 as a Fairfax county-focused business advocacy organization, the Northern Virginia Chamber has grown into the region's largest Chamber of Commerce, drawing members and impacting policy across the Greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region. Today, representing close to 500,000 employees, the diversity of our community is one of our greatest assets, offering opportunities to learn from one another and form personal connections that help guide lasting business growth.

The Chamber's goal is to be considered not only a business partner but also an agent of change for our members. We do this through our work in government advocacy, education through events and programs, networking, promotion of member businesses, and recognition through awards. We are proud to have worked together over these many years to build a meaningful association that enriches our community and look forward to continuing that good work.

For more information, visit www.novachamber.org.

About the Sorensen Institute

The Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership was founded in 1993 to bring together diverse individuals with a passion for politics and public service. All have a wide variety of viewpoints and backgrounds but want to work together for the common good. Our non-partisan mission is to strengthen and enhance the quality of government at all levels throughout Virginia.

Through a variety of programs—for high school and college leaders to first-time political candidates and influential business and community leaders—the Sorensen Institute has established itself as a powerful and effective force for restoring public confidence in our political system.

At the heart of every Sorensen program are three central themes: ethics in public service, the power of bipartisanship, and a concentrated study of public policy issues.

For more information, visit sorenseninstitute.org