SENATE PAGES
and the
SENATE PAGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Bladen Clarke Finch
Director
Class of 1994
PAGE POSITION IN THE SENATE DATES BACK TO AT LEAST 1850.

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SENATE PAGE.

- 1968
- Vincent Tucker (Norfolk)

FIRST FEMALE SENATE PAGE.

- 1971
- Sallie McCutcheon (Henrico County)

PROGRAM-LIKE COMPONENTS BEGIN IN THE EARLY 1970’S AND SLOWLY GREW OVER THREE DECADES.

COMPLETE OVERHAUL IN SUMMER OF 2016.

- 191 applicants (190 the previous year)
- Class of 2017: 46: 31 girls and 15 boys (largest class ever)

ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS SINCE WE REORGANIZED.

- We have more potential partnership opportunities than we have available slots.
APPLICATION

$ REQUIRED to be considered for admission to the program.
$ Opens August 1 of each year.
$ Closes in mid-October.

APPLICATIONS

$ S.C.O. checks ALL applications prior to distribution.
$ If a Senator is not scheduled for a page appointment, their office will still receive applications.
  $ Rank/Submit the top three regardless of appointment year.

SELECTION SCHEDULE

$ Each Senator gets TWO page appointments per four-year term.
$ Six leadership positions have an appointment each year.
$ Selections are due to the S.C.O. by mid-November.
$ Official letters are mailed after the class is finalized.
SESSION STAFF OF 11

- DAY TEAM (7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
  - One lead supervisor
  - Three assistant supervisors

- STUDY HALL TEAM (6:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)
  - One lead tutor
  - Four other tutors (each works two nights per week)

- OVERNIGHT CHAPERONE TEAM (5:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m.)
  - Two adults in the assigned hotel

SENATE PAGE WORK SCHEDULE

- Sundays: Report to assigned hotel by 10:00 p.m.
- Monday: 8:15 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:15 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Friday: 8:15 a.m. – Noon. Depart for home no later than 1:00 p.m.
- Dinner: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. followed by study hall.
The Responsible Young Adult

How Pages assist in the day-to-day work
We designed a three team, weekly rotation modeled after block scheduling in schools.

**Capitol Team**

- Clerk’s Office, Senate Chamber (pre-session), Information, Constituent Assistant (conierge), Chamber door coverage, Senate Gallery coverage.

**Floor Team**

- Assigned to the Senate Floor during sessions.
- When assigned to this team, that is the week during which they work on preparing for the program capstone.

**General Assembly Building Team**

- 5th floor information desk, 6th floor information desk, post office and Senate Finance.
- When assigned to this team, the group goes on midday field trips to Federal Reserve Bank, Library of Virginia, Supreme Court of Virginia.
Most work assignments are fulfilled in the morning and midday.

Approved tasks include the following:

1. Deliver inner-office envelopes, packages, etc. on Capitol Square (Pocahontas Building, Oliver Hill Building and Capitol).
2. Escort visitors from your Pocahontas Building office to the Capitol.
3. Answer telephones / provide coverage in the absence of an administrative assistant (outside of a Senator’s office).
4. Greet visitors, speak with visiting school group about their experience.
5. Fold letters and stuff envelopes, open bulk mailings, collate materials and deliver mail.
DAILY "REGULAR" ASSIGNMENTS

- 5th and 6th floor Pocahontas (General Assembly) Building information desks
- Senate Clerk’s Office and related departments in the Pocahontas (General Assembly) Building
- Senate Chamber
- Committees (different pages each meeting)
- Committee Operations
- Senate Finance

PROHIBITED ASSIGNMENTS

- Obtaining bill signatures
- Obtaining signatures on conference committee reports
- Standing in lunch lines
- Personal errands
- Monitoring House committee meetings
- Leaving Capitol Square without prior approval
60+/- PROGRAM PARTNERS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CLASS SCHEDULE
- Monday: 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

REQUESTS DURING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- The pages will be dispatched to high priority errand requests during the majority of those times; however, we emphasize avoiding page-related tasks during professional development class time.

EACH WEEK OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS THEMED.
- Mix of lecture, group activities and timed writing/public speaking.
EXAMPLES OF EACH WEEK INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Leadership Week
  - Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at UVA
  - Challenge Discovery at University of Richmond
- Local Government Week
  - Justin Wilson ’93, Mayor of Alexandria
  - Morgan Quicke ’00 Richmond County Administrator
  - Virginia Association of Counties
- Money Management Week
  - Virginia Credit Union
- Law In Practice Week
  - Joseph Taylor ’96, Taylor Law Firm PLLC
  - Mecklenburg County Commonwealth’s Attorney
  - Office of the Virginia Attorney General
- Other alumni throughout
  - Sallie McCutcheon ’71 (first female page) and others
The Civic-Minded Young Adult
Community service initiative
FEEDMORE RICHMOND (CENTRAL VIRGINIA FOOD BANK) PARTNERSHIP.

- Non-profit group that serves approximately three-dozen counties across the Commonwealth.

AFTERNOON OF VOLUNTEER WORK AT THE FEEDMORE DISTRIBUTION CENTER (DAY AFTER CROSSOVER)

- Sorting thousands of pounds of donated goods, assembling boxes, packing boxes for shipment and touring the center.

SHOPPING TRIP TO A LOCAL GROCERY STORE IS USUALLY INCLUDED.

WE ENCOURAGE SENATOR’S OFFICES TO GET INVOLVED!

- 100% participation from Senators in 2019.

SINCE 2012, SENATE PAGES HAVE COLLECTED NEARLY $85,000 AND 6,100 POUNDS OF FOOD PRODUCT.
Mock Session
SECOND TO LAST WEEK OF SESSION.

$ Thursday at 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m.

ONE-HOUR DEBATE IN WHICH THE CLASS WILL DEMONSTRATE WHAT THEY LEARNED ABOUT THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS.

$ Since team serves as a mock committee, they have a designated time to practice drafting legislation and debating positions on an issue throughout session.

WE ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION!

$ Senators serve as pages or members of the press.
$ Former pages have participated, including members of the 1944 and 1971 classes.
$ Public gallery is open for parents and other legislative staff members.
SAMPLES OF SUCCESS

Sinead Nardi-White '16
U.S. Senate Page: 2018

Frankie Garner '15
U.S. Senate Page: 2017
UVA Sorensen High School
Leaders Program: 2018

Karli Foster '13
Former Chair,
Martinsville Harvest Youth Board
Sophomore at Virginia Tech

Ross Stolle '04
Hampton Roads’ Top Cop of
the Year award recipient:
2018

Justin Wilson '93
Mayor of Alexandria
Elected in November 2018

Maurice Jones '79
CEO of Local Initiatives
Support Corporation
Former Secretary of Commerce
QUESTIONs

For copies of this presentation, schedule samples and other materials, please contact

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