



PRESS RELEASE

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Local Virginia Legislators Shared Leadership Lessons

Arlington, VA - Leadership Center for Excellence held its seventh annual Legislative Breakfast on Friday, April 20 at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. State legislators shared updates on current political issues and valuable lessons they learned during this year's Virginia General Assembly legislative session and the sub-sequential special session.

Legislators in attendance included:

- Senator Barbara Favola (D-31st District)
- Senator Adam Ebbin (D-30th District)
- Senator Janet Howell (D-32nd District)
- Delegate Patrick Hope (D-47th District)
- Delegate Mark Levine (D-45th District)
- Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D-49th District)
- Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48th District)



The event began with welcomes and opening remarks from Liz Nohra, Acting President & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence, and Greg Hamilton, publisher and co-founder of *Arlington Magazine*, Chair of the Leadership Center for Excellence Board of Regents and Leadership Arlington Class of 2014 program graduate.

Delegate Patrick Hope and the Arlington Delegation invited Betsy Frantz, founding President & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence, on to the stage. Delegate Hope presented the organization and Frantz with a proclamation recognizing Leadership Center for Excellence's 20th anniversary year.

"When you think about what you've learned from this program [Leadership Arlington], it is truly special. This program is among the best," said Delegate Hope, graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2010.

Scott McCaffrey, Managing Editor of the *Sun Gazette*, introduced legislators and moderated the panel. Each delegate followed with remarks about the recent legislative session and their own leadership styles.

Delegate Lopez believes that constantly talking, listening and working with his colleagues are the most important part of his job. Delegate Levine shared he is the "freshman therapist" of sorts, meaning that he values giving guidance to the new members of the House of Representatives.

Delegate Sullivan told the audience, "The days of leading by 'my way or the highway' are over... We are a team." Senator Favola agreed that working in the General Assembly session is all about developing and nurturing relationships.



Questions from audience members touched on the topics of transportation funding, involvement of young voters and healthcare as it relates to Medicaid expansion and the opioid epidemic.

In regard to a question on transportation funding and the conflict between the Northern Virginia area and the remainder of the state, Senator Ebbin spoke about his wish to bring back a tour of the Northern Virginia area that occurred a few years back and showed the needs of Northern Virginia firsthand. Also in response to this question,

Senator Howell expressed she learned to be more sensitive to issues that other districts face.

The last audience question asked about the surge of millennial involvement, calling it the 'Parkland Effect.' Delegate Hope responded, "The Arlington Voter Registrar recently released that 40% of new registrants are between the ages of 18 and 45. That's a movement."

Pictures from the event may be viewed on Leadership Center for Excellence's [Facebook page](#).

Thank you to event sponsors Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; Volunteers of America; Chain Bridge Bank; Washington Gas; Bean, Kinney & Korman, PC; Virginia Hospital Center; AHC, Inc.; OAR and Arlington Economic Development.

About Leadership Center for Excellence

The mission of Leadership Center for Excellence is to enlighten, inspire and connect leaders through community building and leadership development. For more information, visit leadercenter.org or call 703-528-2522.

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