



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Leadership Center for Excellence Celebrates 20 Years

**Arlington, VA** - Leadership Center for Excellence celebrated 20 years of community service and leadership development on Tuesday, June 12 at Army Navy Country Club in Arlington, Virginia. Attendees celebrated the organization's history, honored its founders and paid tribute to the Founding President & CEO, Betsy Frantz.

"I've been thinking a lot about what I want to say tonight, and I want to say I am so grateful... grateful for you all and your community leadership. Thank you for the privilege and honor of being the first President & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence," said Frantz, who served as the Founding President & CEO of Leadership Center for Excellence from 1998 to March 2018. She is now the President of the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation.



Dr. Leonard Hamlin, Canon Missioner of Washington National Cathedral and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2001, performed the invocation for the evening's celebration. Founders Rich Doud, Bob Hawthorne and Gordon Thrall were presented with gifts by Greg Hamilton, Publisher & Co-Founder of Arlington Magazine and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2014, and Mark Ingraio, President & CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 1999.



Bob Hawthorne, Market President of United Bank and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2000, shared his memories of beginning a leadership program in Arlington and hiring Frantz to run it. "As I look back over my 47 years in business in Arlington, helping with the start of Leadership Arlington is one of my greatest accomplishments," Hawthorne remarked.

Gordon Thrall, Executive Vice President & CRO of Guernsey Office Products, Inc. and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2001, reflected on all the hands that pitched in to help get Leadership Arlington, now Leadership Center for Excellence, off the ground. "The Executive Committee at the Chamber of Commerce was the driving force behind the start of Leadership Arlington," Thrall said, as he went on to list the committee members who served during that time.

Founder Rich Doud, retired President of the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 1999, was unable to attend the 20th Anniversary Celebration, but passed along a message of support for the next 20 years.

"I just want to say, 'It's a great day in Arlington,'" Thrall noted at the event in honor of Doud's well-known opening phrase.



To close the celebration, Hamilton gave his final remarks as Chair of the Leadership Center for Excellence Board of Regents.



Hamilton passed his torch to David Barkley who will serve as the Chair of the Board of Regents from the 2018-2019 year. Barkley is the Business Initiatives Director of Freddie Mac and a graduate of the Leadership Arlington Class of 2011.

"Now, more than ever, our individual and collective leadership is needed. As we move forward to embrace our new leadership for the future and step into even more opportunities to build community and borderless leadership, each of us can continue to play a pivotal role for the Center and for those we lead," said Barkley.

Pictures from the 20th Anniversary Celebration may be viewed on Leadership Center for Excellence's [Facebook Page](#).

Thank you to the event leadership sponsors JBG Smith, Virginia Hospital Center, Fulton Bank and United Bank. Also thanks to the anniversary partners: AHC, Inc., A-SPAN, BB&T Bank, Beach Geeks, Chain Bridge Bank, Guernsey, Inc., National Capital Bank, John Marshall Bank, Old Dominion National Bank and Washington Workplace.

#### **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](http://leadercenter.org) or call 703-528-2522.

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