

October 2020

Dear Counselor / Scholarship Coordinator:


I write to announce the opening of this year's Pamplin Leadership Award season on November 1, 2020. The Pamplin Leadership Award (PLA), part of the Pamplin Scholars Program, was established by Robert B. Pamplin, Sr. (Virginia Tech, class of '33) and Robert B. Pamplin, Jr. to acknowledge students who demonstrate superior intellectual promise, academic performance, dedication to their communities, interest and success in physical fitness and health, and unimpeachable integrity.

The PLA is a one-year, merit-based \$5,000 Virginia Tech tuition scholarship presented to up to forty qualified students chosen from the Commonwealth of Virginia's public high schools. Each high school's **one** nominee must have a 3.8 or better GPA.

The application is online through Virginia Tech's Scholarship Central portal, which is only available to students who have submitted their undergraduate admissions application to Virginia Tech. Students will follow these instructions to access the PLA application:

- 1) After completing an undergraduate application to Virginia Tech, all students are sent instructions on how to create a Guest Account 1-3 days after submitting the admissions application.
- 2) The login credentials used to create a Guest Account will also allow a student access to Scholarship Central.
- 3) In Scholarship Central, your high school's nominee must complete Virginia Tech's general scholarship application first (<https://vt.academicworks.com>).
- 4) Once the general scholarship application is complete, a student may apply for the PLA (<https://vt.academicworks.com/opportunities/25085>).

Counselors, please **do not** mail paper applications or supplemental materials; they will not be considered. Be advised, your high school's nominee should be prepared to complete the following in the PLA application:



- An essay addressing the following prompt:

Describe your understanding of effective leadership, including some qualities of effective leadership and how you measure success of an effective leader. Additionally, describe the qualities of one effective leader you know, including how they exemplify these qualities. As you develop your own leadership roles, how do you plan to apply these qualities?

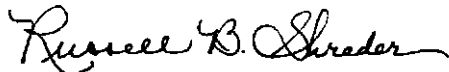
- Name and email address of a high school official—usually the student’s counselor—who will verify that the applicant is the high school’s nominee. The official will then receive electronic notification with instructions to validate the student.

Students enrolled in a partial-day governor’s or magnet school should apply through the guidance office of their base high school. Students enrolled in an all-day governor’s or magnet school should apply through the guidance office of that school. **Applications must be validated by the high school official listed in the application by January 31, 2021 to be considered.**

Any problems accessing the PLA application should be referred to the Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid at 540-231-5179.

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, I work remotely. The best way to get in touch with me is via email at rbshrade@vt.edu.

Sincerely,



Russell B. Shrader

Director of Admissions and Scholarships

Virginia Tech Honors College