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LEAD VIRGINIA ANNOUNCES 2008 CLASS MEMBERS
Diverse Network Promotes Statewide Leadership for Commonwealth's Future

RICHMOND, Va. (April 24, 2008) – *LEAD VIRGINIA*, the statewide leadership program now entering its fourth year of educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, has announced its 2008 class members.

The 44 class participants are senior-level executives in business, education, non-profit and government agencies throughout the Commonwealth. They are experienced, recognized leaders within their professions who are seeking to bolster a shared vision of progressive change through active community involvement across Virginia. A complete list of the class participants is attached.

LEAD VIRGINIA's 2008 curriculum centers on the key themes of economy, education and health and cultivates a shared vision and statewide perspective by examining the technology, economic development, demographics, transportation/growth management and quality of life issues impacting the Commonwealth in each of the regional sessions.

"*LEAD VIRGINIA* prepares leaders to identify statewide common problems, priorities and solutions by engaging them on issues relevant to their communities and others throughout the state," said Susan Horne, president and CEO of *LEAD VIRGINIA*. "Graduates of the *LEAD VIRGINIA* program are better equipped to facilitate change throughout Virginia and offer solutions that will carry Virginia into a healthy, competitive future that enriches the lives of all Virginians."

The 2008 sessions will be held in seven regions throughout the state. The leaders participated in an orientation and opening session in Williamsburg April 17–19 and will, in upcoming months,

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visit Southern Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Northern Virginia, Southwest Virginia and Hampton Roads regions of the state in upcoming months. The program will conclude with a graduation gala and alumni brunch in Richmond November 20–22, 2008.

LEAD VIRGINIA educates participants about regional differences and statewide needs through the shared experience of seven two-day sessions held throughout the Commonwealth. Endorsed by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, state universities and regional leadership organizations, the program offers leaders a forum for gaining deeper insights into complex statewide issues, exchanging resources, creating momentum and working within and outside the political arena to usher in positive change for the Commonwealth. Specific curriculum themes of local/regional economies, as well as the larger issues of education and health, are explored through in-depth dialogue, on-site field studies and experiential activities designed to highlight the diverse interests, resources and challenges of each region.

About LEAD VIRGINIA

LEAD VIRGINIA was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005 and is patterned after similar models of statewide leadership programs across the nation. Led by a board of directors composed of business, education, government, non-profit and community leaders from across Virginia, *LEAD VIRGINIA* uses a proven model for developing a statewide network of leaders by engaging academic, business, civic and government advisors to educate class members on the wide range of key issues in Virginia. 2008 sustaining sponsors of the program include Bon Secours Richmond Health System, HCA Virginia and Philip Morris USA. Additional sponsors include The Harvest Foundation and Norfolk Southern. More information about *LEAD VIRGINIA* can be found at www.leadvirginia.org.

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