

NEW Leadership[®] Virginia



Become the leader you want to see in public policy



Who: Undergraduate students in Virginia

When: June 10 to 12, 2026

Where: George Mason University in Arlington, Virginia

Cost: Free!

Application Deadline: April 1, 2026

NEW Leadership[®] (NEWL) Virginia is a nonpartisan, three-day residential summer program that brings together undergraduate students and women leaders in public service.

Attendees:

- Participate in panel discussions, workshops, and projects
- Meet with lawmakers and staff
- Network with successful women leaders
- Build critical leadership skills
- Learn about women's participation in American policy, politics, and public life
- Develop as an effective advocate
- Become part of NEWL's national network of distinguished alumni



Scan the QR code to
learn more!

The program is hosted by the Gender and Policy (GAP) Center at George Mason University's (GMU's) Schar School of Policy and Government in Arlington, Virginia. University faculty support the program, drawing on their extensive experience and expansive network of policymakers and public-sector professionals.

The program includes an "action project" in which faculty-in-residence help students research a public-facing issue, imitate a legislative hearing, and defend their team's position. This hands-on project helps participants develop public speaking and communication proficiencies, among other enduring skills.



The NEW Leadership Virginia program changes lives. In fact, **100% of past participants** reported that the program:

- Helped prepare them for a future as a leader
- Inspired them to pursue their goals of becoming a future public leader
- Helped them learn valuable skills for future leadership roles
- Helped encourage them to work collaboratively with people who hold different views
- Encouraged them to do future work in the policy sphere or in public service
- Helped them better understand policy and public service better



"I enjoyed every second of the New Leadership Virginia program. It showed me how I can intertwine my passions of public service and policy, and helped me identify my preferred career path. Every panel and every workshop was amazing. I hope to be a part of any future programs."

Chrishea Underhill
2024 Participant

The Schar School's Gender and Policy (GAP) Center at George Mason University was selected by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) as the sole NEW Leadership® National Network Partner for Virginia.