Paul E. Torgersen Leadership Scholarship Application (Revised 2021-2022)

Preliminary Information Page:

Background:
In 1985, the Student Engineers’ Council established a scholarship fund in honor of the Centennial Anniversary of the College of Engineering and to honor Dr. Paul E. Torgersen, former dean of the College of Engineering and ultimately former president of Virginia Tech.

The Paul E. Torgersen Scholarship is awarded annually to 2 rising seniors who have portrayed outstanding leadership and academic achievements. The scholarships will be awarded at the SEC Leadership in Engineering Banquet in late April to be used during the following academic year.

Criteria for Eligibility:
1. The applicant must be at least a junior in the College of Engineering (75 hours passed at the end of Fall 2021) with a minimum of two semesters before graduation.
2. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
3. The applicant is only allowed to apply for this scholarship once during his/her academic career.
4. The applicant must be able to attend the Engineers’ Ball on February 26th, 2022.

Selection Process:
1. The application has four parts: general information, essay, resume, and one letter of reference.
2. All applications must be submitted online through this link. The applicant will receive a confirmation email once the entire application is received and complete from the Awards and Scholarships Chair, Skye Taylor (skyesolace@vt.edu).
3. Recommendations must be submitted through this link by the recommender.
4. Applications will be reviewed by the SEC Awards and Scholarships Committee. Finalists will be chosen and contacted to schedule an interview.

This application includes an essay portion. The essay should be between 750-1000 words. For the essay, please choose one of the following prompts:

- Prompt 1: Social scientists have defined two general types of leaders: Charismatic and transformational. Charismatic leaders have a charming personality and devotion to their cause that attracts their followers, while transformational leaders lead by example and identify with their followers. Explain which of these leadership types you relate to most and give examples of how your leadership style has both benefitted and hindered your ability to lead.
- Prompt 2: Simon Sinek says “Great Leaders truly care about those they are privileged to lead and understand that the true cost of the leadership privilege comes at the expense of self-interest.” How important would you say this is in leadership? Additionally, have you ever had an experience where you had to put aside self-interest while leading a group?

This application may only be submitted once. The application deadline is February 11th, 2022, at 11:59 PM. Upon completing your application, all submissions will be available for review by request.
If you have any questions concerning the application, please contact the Awards and Scholarships Chair, Skye Taylor (skyesolace@vt.edu).