



Williamsburg Institute

Organization offers immersive leadership programming

The Williamsburg Institute, a collaboration between leaders of Colonial Williamsburg and William & Mary, held its first public program in October with a discussion at the Raleigh Tavern that featured portrayals of three 18th-century leaders — Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and the Rev. Gowan Pamphlet.

The Institute's offerings include immersive programming aimed at three groups: high school seniors and college undergraduates seeking leadership skills; business professionals and community leaders navigating

the challenges of leadership in a rapidly changing world; and lifelong learners interested in exploring the rich history and principles of American leadership.

"The Williamsburg Institute is a first-of-its-kind and unique learning organization," said Chris Caracci, the Institute's executive director. "With Williamsburg as its context, it will act as a bridge connecting our rich historical leadership heritage to both the present and future, informing the way for more effective leadership and civic engagement."

Caracci said programs will take place in Williamsburg because that is where American representative government was born.

In keeping with the Institute's goal of educating and preparing individuals for effective leadership while promoting civic engagement, the portrayals of the two presidents and the minister discussed, among other subjects, the nature of leadership, both then and now. They were interviewed by Carly Fiorina, the Institute's executive chair. Fiorina also serves as chair of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Board of Trustees and as the national honorary chair of the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission. ▶



Fiorina asked each of the leaders to define leadership.

Madison, as portrayed by Bryan Austin, stressed that when you are called to do something, “it may

not be to stand as president of the United States, it may be to show up on Election Day, advocate for your neighbor, enlighten yourself, change your mind.”

Pamphlet, portrayed by James Ingram, led a congregation that included enslaved and free Black people in the 18th century. He said that role sparked fears that he might be hanged for his preaching, adding: “You have to look at the only one that’s going to see you through, and that’s our Father, God in heaven.”

Jefferson, portrayed by Kurt Smith, stressed that leaders understand that they do not choose themselves but are chosen by the people around them. “We choose them,” he said, “and if they do ill, it is up to us to mitigate that ill, to choose new leaders.”

The Institute, Fiorina said, will play a critical role “in education and

preparing individuals to lead, solve problems, engage with others and advance society. Now more than ever, particularly as we approach the 250th commemoration of our founding as a nation, we need leaders who will create a more effective, engaged, civil and inclusive society.”

The Williamsburg Institute’s board of directors includes Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation; Jeff Trammell, former rector of William & Mary and former member of the William & Mary Board of Visitors; Peggy Agouris, provost of William & Mary; and Kendrick Ashton, co-founder and co-CEO of The St. James and member of the William & Mary Board of Visitors.

For more information on the Institute, visit williamsburginstitute.org

Florida: Registration #CH10673. A COPY OF THE FOUNDATION'S OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Maryland: THE FOUNDATION'S CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST AT THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE. FOR THE COST OF COPIES AND POSTAGE. DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION SUBMITTED ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 New Jersey: INFORMATION FILED WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CONCERNING THIS CHARITABLE SOLICITATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY BY CALLING (973) 504-6215. REGISTRATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Pennsylvania: THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION OF THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG FOUNDATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN PENNSYLVANIA 1-800-732-0999. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT. Virginia: A FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES UPON REQUEST. Washington: ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHARITIES DIVISION, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON, BY CALLING 1-800-332-4483. West Virginia: WEST VIRGINIA RESIDENTS MAY OBTAIN A SUMMARY OF THE REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SOLICITATION LICENSING BRANCH, AT 1-800-830-4989, STATE CAPITOL, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT.

California: THIS IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE. ANY PROSPECTIVE DONOR SHOULD SEEK THE ADVICE OF A QUALIFIED ESTATE AND/OR TAX PROFESSIONAL TO DETERMINE THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS OR HER GIFT. Annuities are subject to regulation by the State of California. Payments under such agreements, however, are not protected or otherwise guaranteed by any government agency or the California Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association.

New York: Upon request, a copy of the latest annual report may be obtained from the address listed above for the foundation or from the Charities Bureau, Department of Law, Attorney General of New York, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

North Carolina: Financial information about the foundation and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at (919) 807-2214. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

Oklahoma: A charitable gift annuity is not regulated by the Oklahoma Insurance Department and is not protected by a guaranty association affiliated with the Oklahoma Insurance Department. South Dakota: Charitable gift annuities are not regulated by and are not under the jurisdiction of the South Dakota Division of Insurance.

The Foundation does not issue charitable gift annuities in Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii and Washington state.