



Please follow the checklist to ensure all documents are included in the application and you are knowledgeable of the application process. The program will be accepting the most qualified applicants for VALOR Class IV.

- Download the VALOR application and save it to your computer.
- The application is savable as you are encouraged to work on the application in sections.
- Another suggestion is to complete the short answer questions in a Word document and copy and paste the response into the PDF application.
- We ask that your spouse or significant other complete the last section of the application to ensure their support of your participation in the program.
- The second part of the application includes a calendar of seminar dates, participant commitment form, business partner commitment form, and employer commitment form. These forms should be brought to the interview with original signatures.
- Please consider the posted calendar dates and your availability before applying to the program. It is expected that class members attend all seminars and extreme cases be approved by the program director at the beginning of the program. Any pre-anticipated conflicts with the seminar dates should be discussed with the director prior to submission.
- Employer and business commitment forms will need to be signed upon submission of the application.
- Attach the application in an email to VALOR@vt.edu by Monday, April 30, 2018 by midnight.
- A confirmation email will be sent within 72 hours of submission.

Please contact Program Director Megan Seibel Ph.D. at (540) 231-2375 or valor@vt.edu for any questions about the program, application, or interview process.

Interview and Application Process

- Members of the VALOR Advisory Council will review your application and individuals selected for interviews will be contacted in late May to schedule an interview time and location in June or July. An email with this information will be sent to the email address that is provided in the application.
- Check the [VALOR website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) for updates on the application process.
- An announcement of VALOR Class IV Fellows will be made by Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

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APPLICATION FORM

1. Full name _____
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

2. Home mailing address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____ State _____

3. Phone _____ E-mail _____ Fax _____

4. County _____ 5. Marital status _____

6. Date of birth _____

7. List all schools attended including high schools, colleges, and /or short courses.

Name of School	Attendance Dates	Graduation Date	Degree/Cert. Earned
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

8. Primary occupation _____

9. Total number of years in your present occupation: Full-time _____ Part-time _____

10. How did you get started in this occupation?

11. Employment status:

A. Self-employed

Name of business/organization _____

Title or position _____

Mailing address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

B. Not Self-employed/Other

Name of business/organization _____

Title or position _____

Mailing address _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Please answer Part A if self-employed or Part B if not self-employed.

Part A: Self-Employed

a. Briefly describe the type of enterprise including commodities, products, or services (major one first), size of operation, and number of employees in addition to you.

b. Briefly describe your responsibilities in this operation.

c. What other employment or work-related activities do you currently have or have had in the last year?

d. What percentage of your operation do you (and your spouse) currently own? _____

e. What percentage of total annual net income is earned from this operation? _____

f. What other employment have you held in previous years?

Dates

Employer

Title

End of Part A

Part B: Not Self-Employed/Other

a. Name of supervisor: _____

b. Briefly describe the type of enterprise or organization of your employer.

c. How many employees are there in addition to you? _____

d. Briefly describe your responsibilities in your present position.

e. What previous positions have you held with the present employer?

f. List innovative work-related programs in which you have played an active role with your previous and present employers.

g. How many years have you worked for your present employer? _____

h. What employment have you held in previous years other than the present employer?

Dates	Employer	Title
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

End of Part B

13. Indicate your membership and offices held in organizations including college, professional, civic, church, and governmental.

Organization	Length of membership	Office held (if any)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

14. From the organizations listed in question 13, identify 2 projects or programs for which you provided leadership. These can be with more than one organization. Describe what you did to initiate, organize, set goals, obtain resources, or implement action in each project. Example: As a member of the County Development Council, I organized “Visions: 21st Century” planning project with a final report submitted to the County Commissioner. My contributions to this effect were...

Project or Program 1:

Project or Program 2:

List awards and honors you have received.

Organization or grantor	Award or honor	Date
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

15. Indicate professional or leisure reading in the past year.

Newspapers (read regularly)	Magazines (read regularly)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Books	Other (websites, blogs, newsletters, etc.)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

16. Do you use a computer at home or in the office? _____

a. If so, do you have internet access? Cable, DSL, or modem? _____

18. Please list all forms of communication tools you are familiar with and/or use regularly (smart phone, tablet, social media, etc.).

19. Who do you consider to be a progressive, innovative community and/or state leader? Why?

A. Name _____ Activity _____

Why did you select this person?

20. List three business and/or personal references (do not include family members).

A. Name _____ Business Phone _____
Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Relationship _____

B. Name _____ Business Phone _____
Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Relationship _____

C. Name _____ Business Phone _____
Mailing address _____ Home Phone _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
E-mail _____
Relationship _____

21. In 500 words or less, please share what you consider to be the most important agricultural issue facing your community, state, and/or nation. This issue can be broad-based or narrowly-focused.

22. Detail why you would like to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program.

23. How do you plan to use the knowledge, skills, experience, and networks you will gain if you are selected to the program? Please reference our website www.valor.alce.vt.edu for more information about program format and context.

24. Individuals, organizations and companies within agriculture, forestry, and natural resource sectors contribute approximately 75% of the cost of this program. How do you plan to “give back” to these sectors if you are selected for the VALOR program?

25. Support from those around you is critical to your success in VALOR. What personal and community networks have supported you in previous endeavors, and how do you plan to involve these people and resources as a VALOR participant and alumnus?

26. Is there any other personal or professional information you think the Selection Committee should consider?

My signature/typed name below signifies that all information on this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Further, I am aware of the time and financial commitments required of VALOR participants and have carefully considered all seminar dates and other program information as shared on the website and by program personnel.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director Contact Information

Megan M. Seibel, Ph.D.
Department of Agricultural, Leadership, & Community Education
175 West Campus Dr., Mail Code 0343
2300 Litton-Reaves Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061
Email: mseibel@vt.edu
540-231-6941 office | 540-315-2249 cell | 540-231-3824 fax

www.valor.alce.vt.edu



Optional Information

To be completed by applicant's spouse/significant other/personal reference

27. Full name _____
(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

28. Email address _____

29. How long have you known this applicant? _____

30. Names and ages of children (if applicable) _____

31. List schools you have attended including high schools and colleges.

Name of School	Attendance Dates	Graduation Date	Degree/Cert. Earned
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

32. Indicate your membership and offices held in organizations.

Organization	Length of membership	Office held (if any)
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

33. If employed outside of the home, what is your present occupation?

34. How have you helped this applicant in his/her career?

35. List three reasons why you would like to see this applicant participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program.

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Seminar Dates 2018 - 2020* VALOR Class IV

Year 1			
Seminar	Date	Location	Topic
I	September 21-23, 2018	Blacksburg	Orientation & Understanding Self
II	November 8-11, 2018	Eastern Shore/Tidewater	Ag Trade & Engaging with Others
III	January 8-11, 2019	Richmond	Legislative Advocacy & Policy Development
IV	March 17-22, 2019	Northern Virginia & Washington DC	Urban Agriculture & National Ag Policy
V	May 15-22, 2019	U.S. National - TBD	Production & Practice: A Comparison of Approaches
VI	July 18-21, 2019	Southwest	Rural Resiliency & Collaboration
Year 2			
VII	September 19-23, 2019	Northern Neck & Bay	Agriculture, Technology, and the Environment
VIII	November 14-17, 2019	Southside	Addressing Ag Issues
IX	January 16-19, 2020	Central	Agricultural Vitality
X	March 9-24, 2020	International - TBD	Global Dynamics & Opportunities
XI	May 11-15, 2020	Valley	Dynamic Communication & Legacy Leadership
XII	July 10-12, 2020	Roanoke	Graduation: Leading the Future by Example

* Dates may be subject to change/condensing with ample notification and agreement of VALOR Fellows. U.S. Regional destination will be determined by program administration. International destination will be determined by program fellows within certain guidelines.

Participant Commitment Form

VALOR Class IV (2018-2020)

Please enter answers and spaces as needed so completed form is clear and can be photocopied.

I, _____ (*participant's printed name*), am aware that the VALOR participant fee is **\$5,000** and is payable to the Virginia Tech Foundation VALOR Educational Fund, and that a non-refundable \$250 deposit (to be put toward my total fee) is due upon accepting a position in the program.

I am aware that the cost of transportation to and from VALOR seminars, study tour start and return points, and occasional meals are not included in the tuition fee.

If selected, I am willing to be a proactive ambassador for VALOR and assist with activities and promotion both during and after my participation in VALOR. I am aware that a variety of post-graduate services will also be available to me.

I have read VALOR fact sheets, selection criteria, participation commitment sheets, and other program information available online. I understand that participants must make a commitment to participate fully in ALL seminars, study tours and distance education/email activities. Participant handbooks will be provided during the first seminar.

I agree to set aside time outside of formal sessions in preparation for seminars and study tours, related to analysis of issues and topics, and reflective learning.

I understand that there is both a public and corporate investment in this program and that, as a graduate, I must make a commitment to provide leadership for agriculture and natural resources, and rural communities.

I give the VALOR program permission to contact the references supplied. I understand that selection of applicants is the sole responsibility of the organization and program Advisory Council.

By returning the complete application (electronic or hard copy) and participant commitment form (by fax or hard copy with signature), I hereby confirm that I understand and agree to all commitments if selected, and I hereby certify that the statements made in this application are true and complete.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

HARD COPY MUST BE PROVIDED TO VALOR OFFICE BY MAIL OR FAX

(See page 13 for contact info)



Employer Commitment Form

VALOR Class IV (2018-2020)

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT FROM EMPLOYER

Your employee is applying to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program, a program through the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. VALOR participants must make a commitment of time, energy and finances. As his/her employer, you will also be required to make a commitment. VALOR participants must attend ALL seminars and study tours. You will need to allow him/her time away from work. Your cooperation will be a significant contribution to the program. Investment in leadership training cannot be done by a few people; many must become involved.

By returning this completed Employer Commitment Form, I understand _____ (*insert employee's name*) will participate in approximately 54 seminar days, including a mix of week days and weekends, between September, 2018 and July, 2020. There will be 8 three-four day seminars, state and national policy development seminars (approximately 5 days each), a United States study tour (approximately 6 days), and an international study tour (approximately 14 days). The program calendar has been made available to me for reference and consideration.

Yes, he/she has my authorization to participate in VALOR.

Employer's Name: _____

Title: _____

Business Name & Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

HARD COPY MUST BE PROVIDED TO VALOR OFFICE BY MAIL OR FAX
(See page 13 for contact info)



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Business Partner Commitment Form

VALOR Class IV (2018-2020)

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM BUSINESS PARTNER

Your partner is applying to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program, a program through the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. VALOR participants must make a commitment of time, energy, and finances. This may have an impact on your business. Your understanding and cooperation will contribute to the success of the program. Investment in leadership pays dividends to the entire agriculture industry and requires commitment from those directly involved and those with whom they interact.

Why would you like to see your partner selected to participate in VALOR? (Approximately 100 words)

By returning this completed Business Partner Commitment Form, I understand _____ (*insert employee's name*) may be away from our business for approximately 54 days between September, 2018 and July, 2020. There will be eight three-four day seminars, state and national policy development seminars (approximately 5 days each), a United States study tour (approximately 6 days), and an international study tour (approximately 14 days). I have seen the program calendar and he/she has my support to participate in VALOR.

Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Employer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

HARD COPY MUST BE PROVIDED TO VALOR OFFICE BY MAIL OR FAX
(See page 13 for contact info)