Please follow the checklist to ensure you are knowledgeable of the application process and that everything is complete. We look forward to reviewing your materials as a potential member of VALOR Class V.

* Download the VALOR application and save it to your computer.
* 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. Class members are expected to attend all seminars; absences may be excused by the program director for extreme circumstances prior to the beginning of the program. Any anticipated conflicts with seminar dates should be discussed with the director prior to application submission.
* Employer and business commitment forms will need to be signed upon submission of the application.
* Application due by midnight on Friday, May 1, 2020. Save completed application as a PDF and submit using the following brief survey link: <https://vce.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2ocjeTDxX7yrqIJ>

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

**Interview and Application Process**

* Members of the VALOR Selection Committee (Advisory Council, alumni, stakeholders) 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. Please be sure to list preferred phone number and email address with the application.
* Check the [VALOR website](http://www.valor.alce.vt.edu/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AgVALOR), and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/VALeadersOR) for updates on the application process.
* A public announcement of VALOR Class V Fellows will be made around August 1, 2020. You will be notified in mid-July if you have been selected and will be given the option of confirming or declining.

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**APPLICATION FORM**

1. Full name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

1. Home mailing address

City Zip Code State

1. Phone E-mail Fax
2. County 5. Marital status
3. Date of birth
4. List all schools attended including high schools, colleges, and /or short courses.

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

1. Primary occupation
2. Total number of years in your present occupation: Full-time Part-time
3. How did you get started in this occupation?
4. Employment status:
   1. **Self-employed**

Name of business/organization

Title or position

Mailing address Zip Code

Phone Fax

* 1. **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**

1. 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.
2. Briefly describe your responsibilities in this operation.
3. What other employment or work-related activities do you currently have or have had in the last year?
4. What percentage of your operation do you (and spouse/family) currently own?
5. What percentage of total annual net income is earned from this operation?
6. What other employment have you held in previous years?

Dates Employer Title

**End of Part A**

**Part B: Not Self-Employed/Other**

1. Name of supervisor:
2. Briefly describe the type of enterprise or organization of your employer.
3. How many employees are there in addition to you?
4. Briefly describe your responsibilities in your present position.
5. What previous positions have you held with the present employer?
6. List innovative work-related programs in which you have played an active role with your previous and present employers.
7. How many years have you worked for your present employer?
8. What employment have you held in previous years other than the present employer?

Dates Employer Title

**End of Part B**

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

Organization Length of membership Office held (if any)

1. 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.

Project or Program 1:

Project or Program 2:

1. List awards and honors you have received.

Organization or grantor Award or honor Date

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

Newspapers (read regularly) Magazines (read regularly)

Books Other (websites, blogs, newsletters, etc.)

1. Do you use a computer at home or in the office?
2. If so, do you have internet access?
3. Please list all forms of communication tools you are familiar with and/or use regularly (smart phone, tablet, social media, etc.).
4. Who do you consider to be a progressive, innovative community and/or state leader? Why?
   1. Name Activity

Why did you select this person?

1. List three business and/or personal references (do not include family members).
   1. Name Business Phone

Mailing address Home Phone

City/State Zip Code

E-mail

Relationship

* 1. Name Business Phone

Mailing address Home Phone

City/State Zip Code

E-mail

Relationship

* 1. Name Business Phone

Mailing address Home Phone

City/State Zip Code

E-mail

Relationship

1. 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.
2. Detail why you would like to participate in the Virginia Agriculture Leaders Obtaining Results (VALOR) Program.
3. 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](http://www.valor.alce.vt.edu) for more information about program format and context.
4. 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?
5. 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?
6. 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, PhD  
VALOR Director & Extension Specialist  
Dept. of Agricultural, Leadership, & Community Education**

**2300 Litton Reaves, Mail Code 0343**

**175 West Campus Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24061**

[**mseibel@vt.edu**](mailto:mseibel@vt.edu) **540.231.2375 *office* |540.315.2249 *cell* | 540.231.3824 *fax*  
valor.alce.vt.edu**

**Optional Information**

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

1. Full name

(Last name) (First name) (Middle name)

1. Email address
2. How long have you known this applicant?
3. Names and ages of children (if applicable)

1. How have you helped this applicant in his/her career?
2. 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 2020 - 2022\***

**VALOR Class V**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year One** | | | |
| **Seminar** | **Date** | **Location** | **Topic** |
| I | September 18-20, 2020 | Blacksburg | Orientation & Understanding Self |
| II | November 12-15, 2020 | Tidewater/Eastern Shore | Ag Trade & Engaging with Others |
| III | January 6-10, 2021 | Richmond | Legislative Advocacy & Policy Development |
| IV | March 15-20, 2021 | Northern Virginia/Washington D.C. | Urban Agriculture & National Ag Policy |
| V | May 16-22, 2021 | U.S. National – TBD | Production & Practices: A Comparison of Approaches |
| VI | July 15-18, 2021 | Southwest VA | Rural Resiliency & Collaboration |
| **Year Two** | | | |
| VII | September 16-19, 2021 | Northern Neck & Chesapeake Bay | Agriculture, Technology, & the Environment |
| VIII | November 11-14, 2021 | Southside VA | Addressing Ag Issues |
| IX | January 13-16, 2022 | Central VA | Agricultural Vitality & Specialty Products |
| X | March 14-28, 2022 | International – TBD | Global Dynamics & Opportunities |
| XI | May 18-22, 2022 | Valley | Dynamic Communication & Legacy Leadership |
| XII | July 15-17, 2022 | 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 may have input from program fellows within certain guidelines.

** **

**Participant Commitment Form *VALOR Class V (2020-2022)***

*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, with participation and behavioral guidelines included.

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 10 for contact info)

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**Employer/Supervisor Commitment Form**

***VALOR Class V (2020-2022)***

**AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT FROM EMPLOYER/SUPERVISOR (as applicable)**

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 their employer, you will also be required to make a commitment. VALOR participants must attend ALL seminars and study tours. Your cooperation in allowing time away from work to engage in this professional development is a significant contribution to the program. Investment in leadership training is not an individual venture.

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, 2020 and July, 2022. There will be eight (8) regional seminars (3-4 days each), state and national policy development seminars (approximately 4-5 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, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*name*) has my authorization to participate in VALOR.

Employer’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Business Name & Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employer’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(See page 10 for contact info)

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**Business Partner Commitment Form *VALOR Class V (2020-2022)***

**STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT FROM BUSINESS PARTNER (as applicable)**

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, which may impact 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)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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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, 2020 and July, 2022. There will be eight (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). 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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(See page 10 for contact info)