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## PROSPECTUS

The following prospectus outlines a proposal for a proposed new entity – a public service center (“the Center”) that will provide for study, training and implementation of public service ideals and goals, based on the life work of Gary Hart, Ph.D., author and former U.S. senator and presidential candidate.

### FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

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America’s Founders created a democratic republic. A democracy is based on equality and rights of citizenship. A republic, since ancient Athens, is based on popular sovereignty, civic virtue, a sense of the commonwealth, and resistance to corruption.

Popular sovereignty resides political power in the people themselves, and a structure of government they ordain, but requires their constant attention as to how their power is wielded.

Civic virtue, more commonly known as civic duty, requires participation in self-government. Voting is foundational. But intelligent voting requires being informed about the issues of the day which in turn requires a free press, public education, and individual commitments to listen and learn.

The commonwealth is all the things citizens in a republic hold in common and in trust for future generations. Highways, parks, clean water and air, schools, museums, and much more are parts of the commonwealth.

When narrow or special interests are placed above the common good, the corruption that follows can threaten the very life of the republic. Individual interests can be promoted only if the republic places common interests first. Only an engaged and active citizenry can make that happen.

The creation of this Center comes at a time in our history where little emphasis is placed on the duties of citizenship. We are in the midst of a profound struggle and on its outcome will rest the future of our nation. That is the reason the creation of the Center is now both timely and crucial.

Not since John Kennedy’s charge to “give something back to our country” have the American people, especially young people, heard a challenge by leadership to devote a portion of their lives to improving our nation and to remain active all their lives in public activities. The Center will seek to restore this ideal in 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

## GOALS AND FRAMEWORK

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We are in discussion with a leading Colorado academic institution to partner on this initiative. There will be both academic and hands-on training components to the Center. The academic component will include study and discussion of the reasons why our Founders spoke and wrote in the language of the republic and sought to create an American Republic on a scope and scale never before seen. For those interested in studying the 2500-year-old concepts of republican thought throughout history, including the influences on our Founders, the academic coursework portion of the Center will include readings from and discussion of this ideal. The central theme to be explored is why a republic, including the American Republic, requires civic duty and citizen participation to maintain that ideal.

Close study will be made of current negative challenges, including barriers to voting, outlets that discourage citizen participation and undermine confidence in our government, and the forces that promote special interest lobbying rather than the commonwealth.

Central to the aspirations of our Founders was citizen involvement in public life. The hands-on training component of the Center will provide participants with channels for direct involvement in public service and social entrepreneurship, with the goal of providing participants with both the context and the tools for spending one or more years of their lives contributing to a specific chosen avenue of public service

The Center will invite men and women who have been trailblazers in charting new courses of public service in a variety of fields to share their experiences, answer practical and theoretical questions offer guidance to the fellows of the Center, and where possible, offer internship and training opportunities.

The stakes for our nation's future could not be higher. Young people especially must learn that their future rests on revival of citizen participation at all levels of government or they will increasingly lose popular sovereignty, the power of American citizenship.

One person can make a difference and every person should try.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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The Center, through its endowment, will provide fellowships and other research- and application-focused study in academic and community-based settings. Additionally, the Center will bring to campus cutting-edge public service leaders who have been instrumental in developing tools for successful public-private partnerships to speak and to lead recurring seminars throughout the year.

Students and those accepted as fellows will receive academic credit for both their course work and field work through the Center. This work will be structured per rigorous, results-oriented project deliverables as established by the Center and its academic partner. Results will range from published research to community-based activity, or other outcome that furthers the growth of democracy and the ideals of our American republic.

Participants may also be accepted from non-academic institutions, including professionals actively working in public, nonprofit and private organizations who demonstrate a commitment to public service and offer proposals for long-term strategies to address underserved public service objectives.

The Center's Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors will work with relevant administrative and academic leaders at the partner institution to develop the set of criteria which will be applied to those seeking acceptance to the Center's academic and training programs.

#### NEXT STEPS

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The Center will be small at the outset but will expand in scope and outreach over the years to fulfill the purpose and goals outlined above.

As financial support expands, so will the number of fellows who participate in the Center's life.

The Center will have an executive director, a small management staff, and a public governing board of trustees as well as a board of expert advisors from across public, nonprofit and private sector interests. All activities of the Center and its participants will be publicly available. Forums organized by the Center will be open to the public.

The Center will establish partnerships with many NGOs to enable Center students and Fellows to have practical experience outside the classroom in developing and implementing best practices to accomplish frontline progress in programs designed to promote the common good.

Examples include:

- Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry (eliminating childhood hunger)
- City Year (working with citizens in low-income areas)
- Teach for America (working with students in low-income areas)
- Children's Health Fund (helping children in need of health care)
- Vets' Community Connections (involving more Americans from all walks of life in community reintegration for returning veterans and their families)
- U.N. Foundation (promoting global issues such as the environment, climate change and human rights)

**NOW IN DEVELOPMENT:**

OPERATIONAL START-UP TIMELINE

PROPOSED STAFF/BOARD AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

ENDOWMENT/DEVELOPMENT PLAN

CURRICULUM PROGRAM/FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT