



HART CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE: PROSPECTUS

MARCH 2019



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

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

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.

The corruption that threatens the very life of the republic is represented by placing narrow or special interests above the common good. Individual interests can be promoted only if the republic places common interests first.

This dangerous pattern of undermining the rule of law and Constitutional process is changing our nation from a Republic to an autocracy as it has in republics throughout the ages. Only an engaged and active citizenry can prevent it.

The creation of this Center comes at a time in our history where little emphasis is placed on the duties of citizenship and concerted efforts are being made to discourage participation in government, driven by bitter partisanship and moneyed private interests.

We are in the midst of this 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 21st century America.

GOALS AND FRAMEWORK

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

We propose to base the Center and work closely with multiple relevant departments at Metropolitan State University of Denver (“MSU”). As a leading urban academic institute in the Metro Denver Area, MSU provides a uniquely passionate and diverse student body as well as keen academic and philosophical interest in citizen engagement. The Center 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. This table describes the program structure:

CONTENT AREA	DESCRIPTION
<i>Introductory Course</i>	Lead MSU professor(s) will facilitate the creation of a framework course to be taught along with Sen. Hart that will focus on the meaning, history, goals and impact of public service. Coursework will include hands-on civic engagement.
<i>Hart Center Fellows</i>	Cutting-edge leaders in working with public and private sectors to address cross-cutting societal challenges and problems. During the period of their fellowships, Hart Fellows will maintain a regular presence on the MSU Denver campus to study, research, teach and engage the public and students in their work.
<i>Student Fellowships</i>	The Hart Center, together with MSU Denver academic units, will facilitate and fund opportunities for selected students to propose, design and begin to implement new public service initiatives. Student fellowships will include study, research, direct action, or “ambassador” work on campus and in the community.
<i>Experiential Learning/Internships</i>	The Hart Center, together with MSU Denver, will facilitate and cultivate a robust array of experiential learning and Denver community internship opportunities for MSU Denver students.
<i>Public Events</i>	The Hart Center will host public events highlighting the work of current public service innovators and unmet public service challenges. Speakers will include high-profile leaders in government, nonprofit, social entrepreneurship and other arenas.

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 the 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 Advisors (see addendum) will work with relevant administrative and academic leaders at MSU to develop the set of criteria which will be applied to those seeking acceptance to the Center's academic and training programs.

NEXT STEPS

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:

NGO	DESCRIPTION
<i>Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry</i>	Strives to eliminate childhood hunger
<i>City Year</i>	Works with citizens in low-income areas
<i>Teach for America</i>	Works with students in low-income areas
<i>Children's Health Fund</i>	Helps children in need of health care
<i>Veterans Community Connections</i>	Involves diverse Americans in community reintegration for returning veterans and their families
<i>U.N. Foundation</i>	Promotes global issues such as the environment, climate change and human rights

For more information:

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ADDENDUM: BOARD OF ADVISORS (AS OF MARCH 2019)

Advisor	Description/Affiliation
Gary Hart	<i>Former U.S. Senator (CO) and presidential candidate, author</i>
Douglas Wilson	<i>Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs</i>
Billy Shore	<i>Founder and Executive Chairman, Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry</i>
Kathy Calvin	<i>President and CEO, U.N. Foundation</i>
John Emerson	<i>Former U.S. Ambassador to Germany</i>
Alan Khazei	<i>Founder and CEO, Be the Change, Inc., and Co-founder, City Year</i>
Hon. William Cohen	<i>Former U.S. Senator (ME) and former Secretary of Defense</i>
Cindy McCain	<i>Chair, Board of Trustees, McCain Institute for International Leadership</i>
Gen. Charles Boyd	<i>U.S. Air Force (Ret.)</i>
Harold Haddon	<i>Founder, Haddon, Morgan and Foreman</i>
Thomas Hoog	<i>Former President and CEO, Hill and Knowlton/USA</i>
Hugh Jackman	<i>Actor, social philanthropist</i>
Deborra-Lee Jackman	<i>Actor, social philanthropist</i>
Arianna Huffington	<i>Founder and CEO, Thrive Global, and Founder, Huffington Post</i>
David Miller	<i>Executive Director, Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise, University of Denver</i>
David Axelrod	<i>Director, Institute of Politics, University of Chicago</i>
Susan Casey	<i>Former member, Denver City Council</i>
Hon. Jeanne Shaheen	<i>U.S. Senator (NH)</i>
Warren Beatty	<i>Actor</i>
Annette Bening	<i>Actor</i>
Trevor Cornwell	<i>Founder, Forum 280; social entrepreneur</i>
Debbie Shore	<i>Co-Founder, Share Our Strength/No Kid Hungry</i>
Michael Stratton	<i>Senior Policy Director, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck</i>
Martin O'Malley	<i>Former Governor (MD) and presidential candidate</i>
Michael Medavoy	<i>Film producer</i>
Dennis Walto	<i>CEO, Children's Health Fund</i>
Steve Bachar	<i>Partner and Co-founder, Empowerment Capital</i>
Ginny Terzano	<i>Principal, Dewey Square Group</i>
Kevin Sweeney	<i>Founder, Transforming Business</i>
Jason Reitman	<i>Film director, screenwriter, producer</i>
Robert Tyrer	<i>Co-President, Cohen Group</i>
John Pouland	<i>Senior Advisor, GreenGen</i>
Eric Schwarz	<i>Co-Founder and CEO, College for Social Innovation</i>