



The Thomas W. Ross North Carolina Leadership Fellows Program

In a celebrated career as lawyer, chief of staff to a member of Congress, N.C. superior court judge, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation executive director and a private and public higher education leader in North Carolina, Thomas W. Ross has shown how one person can make a difference.

The Ross Leadership Fellowship will support a public policy major who wants to work within any sector (public, higher education, philanthropy, non-profit) and seeks to advance ideas that improve the quality of life for North Carolinians. In consultation with a prospective mentor at a host organization, Ross Leadership Fellows will propose a plan of action that addresses a challenge or problem facing North Carolina. The Ross Leadership Fellows will develop their professional skills in a public service environment through hands-on experience (in-person or virtual). Fellows typically will complete 30-40 hours of service per week for 8-12 weeks. The 2024 recipient will receive a summer stipend of \$3750.

Interested students should send the following information as a zip file to the Committee (c/o UNC Public Policy Student Services Specialist, merealb@unc.edu) by **April 1, 2024**:

- A letter of interest with a brief (no more than 500-word) overview of your achievements; commitment to public service in North Carolina as well as a description of how your service will help your host organization in its mission)
- Unofficial transcript and Resume
- A letter of support from a prospective mentor at your host organization
- Other relevant information supporting your candidacy.

PLEASE NOTE: acceptance of this award may reduce your eligibility for certain loans or financial aid packages. If you have questions regarding loans, contact the Office of Scholarships & Student Aid at (919) 962-8396, <http://studentaid.unc.edu/>, or email aidinfo@unc.edu.

Thomas W. Ross, is President of the Volcker Alliance, a nonpartisan organization formed to address the challenge of effective execution of public policies and to rebuild public trust in government. In addition to his role with the Volcker Alliance, Mr. Ross is currently serving as the first Terry Sanford Distinguished Fellow at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. Mr. Ross brings a strong sense of commitment to public service and long experience in law, philanthropy, education, and public management.

Mr. Ross served as a judge in the North Carolina Superior Court for seventeen years and continued his public service as the Director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts before serving as the chief executive for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. From

2007 to 2010, he served as the President of Davidson College, his alma mater. He was the President of the seventeen-campus University of North Carolina from 2011 to 2016. Active in civic and community activities, Ross currently serves on the Howard Baker Forum Cuba Consortium Advisory Board. He has served recently on the Board of Governors of the Center for Creative Leadership, the Executive Committee of the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association, the Board of Directors of the National System Heads Association, the Association of Governing Boards' Council of Presidents, and the Council on Competitiveness. He also served on the boards of the National Humanities Center, the David H. Murdock Research Institute, the NC Biotechnology Center, and the UNC Health Care System. A former chairman of the UNC Greensboro Board of Trustees, he has previously served on the Boards of Visitors for UNCG, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University and the Board of Trustees at Davidson College.

Ross has received numerous awards and accolades for his public service and professional achievements. His many contributions to the judicial system have been recognized through the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence (2000), given annually to one state judge in the nation; Governing Magazine's National Public Official of the Year Award (1994); the Foundation for the Improvement of Justice Award (1995); the American Society of Criminology President's Award for Distinguished Contributions to Justice (2007); the NC Bar Association Citizen Lawyer Award (2010); and the NC Bar Association's highest award, the Judge John J. Parker Award (2016). He has also been honored with The North Carolina Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Public Service Award (2016), the University Award presented by the UNC Board of Governors for distinguished service to higher education (2016); the UNC Greensboro McIver Award for distinguished public service (2016) The Echo Foundation's Award Against Indifference (2015), the Lifetime Achievement Award from the UNC CH School of Law (2016); Distinguished Alumni Awards from Davidson (2001) and the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Law (2005), the UNC-Chapel Hill Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award (2015), the NC Justice Center's Champion of Justice Award (2016); and an honorary doctorate from UNCG. In addition, he has received the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award (1993), the National Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Eagle Scout Award (1999), and the Order of the Long Leaf Pine (1999).