In memory of Ryland Restee Roane, Jr.

THE RYLAND R. ROANE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Ryland was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia by Ryland Restee Roane, Sr., and Juanita Roane. He graduated with honors from Benedictine High School. Ryland earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1981 from Wake Forest University, where he was a member of the Army ROTC, a cheerleader, and president of his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha. After college, he served four years in the Army and attended culinary school.

Diagnosed with HIV in 1987, when life expectancy was short, Ryland was a remarkable long-term survivor. He was one of the first people in the Richmond area to talk publicly about his HIV status with the media, helping to combat HIV stigma. Ryland served on national community advisory boards for HIV clinical trials, and participated in numerous local studies in the Richmond area. Some of these trials were grueling; however, he believed his participation was essential to ensuring that others had access to lifesaving HIV medications, especially when treatment options were limited.

After serving as a volunteer at the Fan Free Clinic, Ryland began his public health career at the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) in 1988 as an HIV Hotline counselor before joining the Richmond City Health District in 1990 as a disease intervention specialist and later as the Minority AIDS Coordinator. Ryland returned to the VDH central office in 1993 as a health educator with HIV Prevention. Later he was promoted to Supervisor of the HIV/STD Hotline. Ryland was always willing to go the extra mile to counsel a newly diagnosed patient or help someone solve a medication access problem. Whatever the task or challenge, Ryland would respond, “We’re on it. We’ll get it done.” Over the years, Ryland faced many health challenges and often considered retirement, but he continued to work because he was motivated by the importance of the mission and wanted to continue serving the community.

Ryland loved his coffee and was a true college basketball fanatic, always rooting for his beloved Wake Forest Deacons and joking with University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and University of North Carolina Tarheel fans. He remembered the names of all of his co-workers’ children and thanked each of his employees for their work every day.

Behind the scenes, Ryland mentored young Black gay men seeking careers in public health and those living with HIV. He was a friend and source of advice and support. The Ryland R. Roane Fellowship Program was created to honor Ryland’s service, to continue his legacy of providing mentoring and guidance to others, and to create professional opportunities in public health.

Mr. Roane passed away after a brief illness with acute myeloid leukemia. His final charge to his coworkers to was to “Keep saving lives”. Ryland was posthumously recognized as an “Agency Star” by the Board of Health. He was acknowledged for his beautiful spirit, positive energy, and incredible dedication to VDH and to HIV prevention.
Ryland R. Roane Fellowship In HIV Services
Program Description

The Virginia Department of Health, Division of Disease Prevention is offering a two-year paid fellowship beginning September 1, 2020. The goal of this program is to create opportunities to gain experience, mentoring and leadership skills in preparation for a career in public health.

The first year of the fellowship will include six months working at a community-based organization and six months working at a local health department. During year two, the fellow will be housed at the state health department and select a project or focus area. Fellows will be provided with a laptop and cell phone. Local travel, training, and attendance at one national conference per year will be supported.

The candidate selected for this position will be hired as a contractor through a staffing firm. Fellows will be expected to work 40 hours per week. The starting pay rate is $21 per hour. The position does not include benefits or insurance. Candidates must possess a valid driver’s license, comply with VDH driving policies and must pass a criminal background investigation.

Interested persons should submit:
• a completed application (legibly written and scanned or utilize online PDF editor);
• resume;
• a personal statement describing the impact of the HIV epidemic on your life, your interest in working in HIV and public health, your interest in improving health outcomes for black gay men, and how your participation will enhance your career and personal goals; and,
• two letters of recommendation.

Application packages must be sent electronically no later than July 1, 2020, and submitted to:

Darnell Barrington, MPH, CHES
Supervisor, Ryland Roane Fellowship Program
Darnell.Barrington@vdh.virginia.gov

Select candidates will be offered interviews during the month of August. Individuals selected will be notified in August and expected to start work in Richmond, Virginia by September 1, 2020.

Questions about the Ryland R. Roane Fellowship Program may be directed to Darnell Barrington at darnell.barrington@vdh.virginia.gov or (804) 864-7877.
The Ryland Roane Fellowship Program was created to provide meaningful public health opportunities to assist individuals in strengthening their skills and gaining experience. This will assist them in pursuing careers in public health and HIV services. The Fellowship Program is focused on improving health outcomes for black gay men and people living with HIV.

Ryland Roane Fellowship recipients will be hired as contract employees (through a staffing firm) for a period of two years. During year one, the Fellow will have field placements in both community-based organizations and local health districts. In year two, the Fellow will be housed with the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Disease Prevention and select an HIV-related project or focus area.

**VDH Responsibilities**
- Hire and complete criminal background investigation and review of driving record
- Pay the salary of the Fellow
- Provide a two-week orientation period at the Central Office
- Assign a mentor, provide a mobile phone, laptop and air card for use by the Fellow
- Pay for local travel and training expenses of the Fellow
- Pay for attendance at one national meeting annually

**VDH Mentor Responsibilities**
- Conduct weekly check-ins by phone or in person with the Fellow during their field placements
- Conduct monthly check-ins with the placement agency
- Assist the Fellow in developing an individual learning plan for Year one
- Assist the Fellow in developing a project for Year two
- Provide direct supervision at the Central Office during Year two

**Placement Agency Responsibilities**
- Provide office space for the Ryland Roane Fellow for 6 months
- Provide onsite supervision, mentoring, and feedback
- Participate in monthly check-ins with the VDH mentor
- Provide meaningful professional work experiences
- Request advance approval from VDH for payment of overtime

**Ryland Roane Fellowship Participants**
- Commit to the two year program
- Register with staffing firm and complete all required background checks
- Sign and adhere to Confidentiality and Security agreements for both VDH and the placement agency
- Adhere to all VDH and field placement agency policies and procedures
- Possess a valid driver’s license and maintain a driving record in accordance with VDH policy
- Meet weekly with the VDH mentor
- Select a project or focus area for year two of the Fellowship
Application for the Ryland R. Roane Fellowship in HIV Services

Name: ______________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________________
Phone (Alt): ________________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________________
Date of Birth: ______________________________________________

Education

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Attachments

☐ Resume
☐ Personal Statement
☐ Two Letters of Recommendation

By signing this application, I commit to participating in the Ryland R. Roane Fellowship for a period of two years and abiding by all Virginia Department of Health and field placement agency policies and procedures. I understand that I will be a contract employee hired through a staffing firm and not an employee of the Virginia Department of Health.

______________________________________________________________
Signature of Applicant

_____________________
Date of Signature