

Eric Lin '06

Principal, The VIE Group

In which locality do you reside?

Chesterfield.

What brought you here and/or what has kept you here?

I was born in Ohio, and moved to Richmond in 1975. I have lived in every region of the state, but found my way back to RVA to live and raise my family.

Who has inspired you along your leadership journey?

My father always taught me that if you have the ability, then you have the responsibility to step forward and help.

How has LMR helped you become a stronger and more impactful leader?

LMR taught me that we cannot work in our own silos. Only through collaboration with others, are we able to grow beyond our own boundaries to achieve things that would be very difficult or impossible to do on our own.

What project(s) are you currently working on?

Through the Asian & Latino Solidarity Alliance and our Academy programs in Chesterfield and Henrico, I strive for solidarity between marginalized communities to ensure that everyone is made aware of resources and opportunities, and can also gain access to them. I am also working to help other organizations throughout the state to understand and develop better relationships with the burgeoning immigrant and multicultural communities.

What's the best piece of advice you ever received?

A good friend of mine once quoted famous LA Dodger manager, Tommy LaSorda: "There are three types of people in this world. Those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happens. You have to decide which type you want to be."

What is one piece of advice you wish to share with other community leaders as we address current challenges (COVID-19, social justice, and otherwise) in the Richmond Region?

For our efforts to truly make an impact, we must think about how our progress can be sustained. Too often, our lives are lived in small consumable bites: a post here, a tweet there...but what systems are being changed? How are inequities truly being addressed? And how can we build upon these changes?

What is your vision for the future of the Richmond Region?

While we are seeing the rise of the Richmond region, we are experiencing a rapidly changing community and struggling with systemic inequities that penalize marginalized communities. The future I hope to see, is one where the Richmond region embraces the opportunities of a global community, and addresses the systemic inequities that have continued to plague us.



Honors a member for a purposeful vision, a sense of what needs to be done, clear articulation with concern and respect for others with demonstrated action and risk-taking.