

## For Immediate Release

### **The Volcker Alliance Busts Myths Crippling Federal Recruitment of Next Generation**

*Joins with Partnership for Public Service and Robertson Foundation for Government to Correct Misconceptions about Federal Regulations for Internships and Recent Graduate Hiring*

NEW YORK, NY (October 29, 2014) – The Volcker Alliance, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization launched in 2013 by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker to improve trust in and the effectiveness of government, has joined together with the Partnership for Public Service and the Robertson Foundation for Government to release a “Myth Busters” toolkit ([Link](#)) to combat widespread confusion and correct common misperceptions about federal internship and recent graduate hiring regulations.

The “Myth Busters” toolkit— being disseminated to federal agencies, universities, and students—was developed after extensive discussion with federal agency officials eager to hire recent graduates and provide internships, as well as very helpful feedback from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management. The toolkit clarifies eight critical components of the government-wide [Pathways Programs](#), regulations issued in 2012 that provides guidance for federal internships and hiring recent graduates. However, nearly two years after their implementation, widespread misperceptions have hindered their application.

“As citizens, we want the federal government to be able to bring strong, young talent into government service without difficulty. Confusion about the current rules has hampered agency efforts,” said **Shelley Metzenbaum, President of the Volcker Alliance**. “With all the complex challenges the federal government needs to tackle, it cannot afford to lose an entire generation of innovative, energetic, educated young people who want to bring their 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into government to tackle 21<sup>st</sup> century problems. Much can be done to fix this problem, even without new regulation or legislation.”

Earlier this year, [Metzenbaum testified on Capitol Hill](#) to present the “real and urgent crisis” facing federal management and performance. As The Volcker Alliance’s Founding President and former Associate Director for Performance and Personnel Management at the White House Office of Management and Budget, Metzenbaum has spearheaded efforts to improve hiring practices and enable cross-agency recruiting.

Notable myths the “Myth Busters” toolkit seeks to dispel include:

- Agencies cannot target outreach to specific academic institutions.
- Agencies cannot target outreach by geographic area.
- Agencies must post every job and internship on USAJOBS.

- Agencies cannot accept applications for Recent Graduates positions from students who are still in school.
- Agencies must apply veterans' preference as part of each screen in the hiring process for Internships and Recent Graduates positions.

"Debunking the myths that prevent young people from pursuing rewarding careers in public service is an effort worth pursuing if we want the sharpest and brightest young minds taking on today's greatest challenges," said **Robertson Foundation Board President Katherine Ernst**. "The Robertson Foundation for Government proudly supports this initiative because it aligns with our mission to prepare more high achieving young men and women for federal government careers."

**Max Stier, President and CEO, Partnership for Public Service**, added: "We are proud to be part of this effort to equip agencies, college advisors, and students and recent graduates with information to take full advantage of the federal Pathways Programs, which has the potential to help agencies recruit and hire the talent they need to meet their missions."

The "Myth Busters" project is an early initiative of The Volcker Alliance, which aims to restore public trust in government by encouraging public, private, and educational institutions to give sustained attention to excellence in the execution of federal, state, and local policies in the U.S. and abroad.

###

For media inquiries, please contact Marc Smrikarov at [marcs@bljworldwide.com](mailto:marcs@bljworldwide.com), +1-212-486-7070.

#### **About The Volcker Alliance**

The Volcker Alliance is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization launched in 2013 to address the challenge of effective execution of public policies and to rebuild trust in government. Based in New York City, The Volcker Alliance seeks to rekindle intellectual, practical, and academic interest in the implementation of policy – the "nuts and bolts" and, increasingly, the "electrons" of governance – and serve as a catalyst for sustained government improvement. For more information, please visit [www.volckeralliance.org](http://www.volckeralliance.org).

#### **About The Partnership for Public Service**

The Partnership for Public Service is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to revitalize our federal government by inspiring a new generation to serve and by transforming the way government works. For more information, please visit [www.ourpublicservice.org](http://www.ourpublicservice.org).

#### **About The Robertson Foundation for Government**

The Robertson Foundation for Government is a nonprofit family foundation dedicated to helping government meet its talent needs by identifying, educating and motivating top U.S. graduate students to pursue federal government careers in foreign policy, national security and international affairs. For more information, please visit [www.rffg.org](http://www.rffg.org).