The Hinckley Institute of Politics at the University of Utah is a bipartisan institute dedicated to engaging students in governmental, civic, and political processes; promoting a better understanding and appreciation of politics; and training ethical and visionary students for service in the American political system. Robert H. Hinckley founded the Hinckley Institute of Politics in 1965 with the vision to "teach students respect for practical politics and the principle of citizen involvement in government." Since its founding, the Hinckley Institute has provided a wide range of programs for students, public school teachers, and the general public, including: internships, courses, forums, scholarships, and mentoring. The Hinckley Institute places emphasis on providing opportunities for practical experience in politics.

**Internship Program**
A nationally recognized program and the heart of the Hinckley Institute, the Hinckley internship program places more than 300 students every year in political and government offices, non-profit organizations, campaigns, and think tanks. The Institute provides internship opportunities to students from all majors for academic credit in Washington, D.C., at the Utah State Legislature, in local offices and campaigns, and in more than 35 countries.

**Campaign Management Minor**
The Hinckley Institute of Politics offers a minor in Campaign Management designed to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to learn the theory and practices that will allow them to be effective participants in election and advocacy campaigns. Students are required to complete a political internship and an interdisciplinary series of courses in areas such as campaign management; interest groups and lobbying; voting, elections and public opinion; media; and other practical politics.

**Public Forums and Events**
The Hinckley Institute hosts weekly Hinckley Forums where several political speakers address public audiences in the Hinckley Caucus Room. Hinckley Forums enable students, faculty, and community members to discuss a broad range of political concepts with local, national and international politicians, ambassadors, activists, and academics. Past guests include Presidents Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford; Senators Orrin Hatch, John McCain, and Harry Reid; Utah Governors Michael Leavitt and Jon Huntsman, Jr., and many other notable politicians and professionals. The speeches are broadcast on KUER 90.1 FM radio and KUED TV.

**Scholarships and Loans**
The Hinckley Institute provides more than $730,000 in internship and academic scholarships to students through the Robert H. Hinckley, Abrelia Clarissa Hinckley, Anne and John Hinckley, Senator Pete Suazo, Robert F. Bennett, and Scott M. Matheson scholarship funds, and through donations from the Li Ka Shing Foundation. The Hinckley Institute is also the University of Utah representative for the Harry S. Truman Congressional Scholarship and the James Madison Fellowship—two of America's most prestigious scholarships.
A man of vision and foresight, a 20th-century pioneer, a philanthropist, an entrepreneur, and an untiring builder of education and of the American political system—all are apt descriptions of Robert H. Hinckley, a Utah native and tireless public servant. Robert H. Hinckley began his political career as a state legislator from Sanpete County and a mayor of Mount Pleasant. Hinckley then rose to serve as the Utah director for the New Deal program under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hinckley went on to serve in various capacities in Washington, D.C., from 1938 to 1946 and again in 1948. During those years he established and directed the Civilian Pilot Training Program, served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Air, and directed the Office of Contract Settlement after WWII. In these positions Hinckley proved himself to be, as one of his colleagues stated, “One of the real heroes of the Second World War.” Also in 1946, Hinckley and Edward Noble jointly founded the American Broadcasting Company (ABC), and over the next two decades helped to build this company into the major television network it is today.

Spurred by the adverse political climate of the ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s, Hinckley recognized the need to demonstrate that politics were “honorable, decent, and necessary,” and to encourage young people to get involved in the political process. After viewing programs at Harvard, Rutgers, and the University of Mississippi, Hinckley believed the time was right for an institute of politics at the University of Utah. So in 1965, through a major contribution of his own and a generous bequest from the Noble Foundation, Robert H. Hinckley established the Hinckley Institute of Politics to promote respect for practical politics and to teach the principle of citizen involvement in government.

Hinckley’s dream was to make “every student a politician.” The Hinckley Institute of Politics strives to fulfill that dream by sponsoring internships, scholarships, forums, mentoring, and a minor in Campaign Management. Today, 45 years later, Hinckley’s dream is a reality. More than 5,000 students have participated in programs he made possible through the Hinckley Institute of Politics. Many of these students have gone on to serve as legislators, members of Congress, government staffers, local officials, and judges. All participants have, in some measure, become informed, active citizens. Reflecting on all of his accomplishments, Robert H. Hinckley said, “The Hinckley Institute is one of the most important things I will have ever done.”