

ACEC October 2020 Newsletter

ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

AT VIRGINIA TECH ®

ACE Center's Statement of Purpose

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is in the division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity. The ACEC's mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students, and alumni. We also aim to educate the campus community on issues centered around or related to our communities. All members of the campus and the local community are welcome to the ACEC and can participate in the ACEC's events, programs, and activities.

Undergraduate Student Spotlight: Maggie Luo

Maggie Luo is a sophomore majoring in Human Nutrition Food and Exercise and minoring in Public Health. She currently holds many leadership positions including: Vice President for the Asian American Mental Health Alliance (AAMHA) and for the Chinese American Society (CAS). In her CAS role, she felt a responsibility to her community, as she was previously the Freshman Representative last year and wanted to make the organization better by contributing to its growth. Moreover, she wanted CAS to become more inclusive. Also, her impetus for joining CAS was because past CAS Officers inspired her to become an Officer too. Regarding AAMHA, Luo chose to become Vice President because the organization has similar values that she does. Since AAMHA is a new student organization, its President, Yullie Kwak chose Luo to be the Vice President because the president trusted Luo could handle the position. The overall reason that Luo ran for these leadership positions is because she wanted to be more involved with the APIDA community.



In addition to her roles in these student organizations, Luo has kept busy by starting her online thrift store this past summer on Instagram. Peachiru (the name of her online thrift store) started off with Luo having way too many clothes in her closet, and during quarantine, she noticed that the majority of the items were very nice and could be sold instead of donated. When Luo started this venture, friends would ask if she could sell their clothes as well. Originally, she marketed women's clothes; however, recently, there are men's clothes being sold too!! The majority of Luo's proceeds go to different charities and she encourages those who ask her to sell their clothes to donate their proceeds as well. Currently, she has sold 260 items, donated around \$600, of which a majority of the proceeds went to organizations that support BLM, COVID-19 support services, and other social justice organizations. Peachiru Customs became a branch of Luo's on-line thrift

store, which sells custom shoes. Basically, customers would tell Luo their shoe sizes and desired designs. Design prices would range from \$20-40, not including the actual price of the shoe. Working on her entrepreneurial endeavors is mainly a hobby, as school and extracurricular activities have been keeping Luo busy. She encourages everyone to thrift instead of shop first-hand since it is better for the environment and because the majority of the time clothes that are bought is considered fast fashion (fads), so it's better to thrift. Besides, the items tend to be cheaper!

If Luo had to give any tips to her past self, it would be, "Trust in the process of learning. You have a lifetime to learn things. In the past, I had anxiety for not being good/smart enough compared to all other peers. Over time, I learned how to learn. College is very different from high school where high school structures everything for you while [in] college you have more of a choice on how to learn. But also, you have to put the [in the] effort. You will not be able to learn without any effort! College has a lot of resources, you just have to find [them] and reach out first. Also, [professor's] office hours are really helpful! Take advantage!"

Organization Spotlight: The Chinese American Society (CAS)

The Chinese American Society (CAS) at Virginia Tech is a social and cultural student organization that aims to introduce and promote Chinese culture to the general student body and local community. Additionally, CAS strives to emphasize diversity and raise awareness of what it means to be an Asian-American living in modern times. They recently hosted their Big/Little Program in which incoming students joining the club are partnered up with returning members to create closer bonds with new people. Some events that the members always look forward to include ChinaVAsia which is an intercollegiate event with University of Virginia (UVA), William and Mary (W&M), and Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and during which everyone comes together to connect. Another event is a culture show that happens in the spring semester and with the culture show, all the members get to celebrate their culture through dance, fashion and more! With COVID-19 all events will probably be held virtually for safety precautions. For more information, please contact cas.virginiatech@gmail.com, Michelle Hong at michellehong@vt.edu, or Maggie Luo at mhluo@vt.edu.



Graduate Student Spotlight: Joong Won Kim

Joong Won Kim is a Korean-American Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology and the incoming Graduate Programming Assistant for the ACEC. His dissertation research focuses on looking at ways that the U.S. racial ideology becomes transnationally disseminated and promulgated with Korea as the extension of the U.S. empire. His dissertation focuses on how a transnational racial order is "done" and "accomplished" in everyday social interactions through the use

of language. His work can be found in academic peer-reviewed journals such as *Sociological Inquiry*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Sociation*, and *Sustainability*.

Kim immigrated to the U.S. from Korea at the age of 11 and grew up in Illinois, north of Chicago. Before coming to Virginia Tech, Kim received his Master's of Arts in Sociology from DePaul University. Additionally, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Southern Illinois University with a minor in Philosophy. A fun fact about Kim is that he loves Chicago's Deep Dish Pizza and the Vermont jamband, Phish.

As the incoming Graduate Programming Assistant for the ACEC, Kim is looking forward to putting into practice some of the ideas that are very much discussed in scholarship to the community at Virginia Tech. He is very excited to engage with the enthusiasm of the Hokie culture and family through his role at the ACEC.



"One piece of advice I have is self-care. As a sociologist, I can't stress enough the importance of social well-being; being with your peer network and family. When you're isolated and detached from society, it has drastically negative consequences - particularly with regards to mental health. I think organizations such as the Asian American Mental Health Alliance (AAMHA) are very important with regards to something that is very needed - social cohesion, a sense of community in these tumultuous times."

Alumni Spotlight: Dennis Wang

Dennis Wang, '98, is a Virginia Tech Industrial Systems and Engineering alumnus of Taiwanese descent. During his time at Virginia Tech, he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, in which he made some of his closest friends. He also acquired a Master's degree in Information Technology from Carnegie Mellon in 2004.

Although he began his career in manufacturing with the corporation, Cutler Hammer–Eaton, his career took a turn towards Mutual Funds management, and then through various roles in Banking. Currently, Wang is a Product Manager for Fiserv, the largest financial technology company in the world.



Wang is an active member of the ACEC's APIDA Discussion Board on Hokie Mentorship Connect, where he hopes to learn about what other APIDA Virginia Tech alumni are doing and how he can help the community, students, and other alumni. He said he advocates for the APID Alumni Society members to be more vocal and confident.

"My desire is to have the people that are participating as well as the generation that's within the school right now to feel confident that they can actually be a vocal part of society," Wang said. "We fit into many stereotypes I would say, but at the same time, a lot of the conversations don't usually involve us from an Asian perspective."

Given his various roles including those from the Engineering/Technical background to Mutual Funds and Asset Management, to Banking, Wang has a myriad of experiences to offer to the APIDA community at Virginia Tech. For students, alumni, or other community members who would like to contact Wang for advice or just to meet him, you can email him at dennisywang@gmail.com.

Faculty Spotlight: Interview with Dr. Shaila Mehra

Academic and Professional Bio:

Dr. Shaila Mehra (she/her) is the Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech and a second-generation Indian (South Asian - Desi) American from St. Louis, MO. She earned undergraduate degrees in English and Art from Rhodes College and a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of Rochester. Her research and teaching focus on African American literature, Black feminist theory, and Black intellectual traditions. She was previously Director of Africana Studies at Oklahoma State University. Prior to entering academia, she worked in community-based grantmaking and nonprofit management in St. Louis. A recent transplant to Virginia, she is grateful for natural beauty and welcoming colleagues, and she hopes the weather treats all of us kindly.



Acclimating to Blacksburg:

Blacksburg is gorgeous. I spent the whole summer outdoors, something that is impossible to do in Oklahoma. Now I'm watching the leaves change on mountain ridges that I can see from my front door. I really can't believe I live in such a beautiful place. I'm also thrilled to be at Virginia Tech. It feels like a time of possibility related to the work I do; there's strong leadership at all levels, an openness to new ideas, and terrific colleagues. This is also a place where I believe I will thrive intellectually, thanks to the robust intellectual environment that the faculty and the CCC Directors create through programming, visiting speakers, etc. I attend talks and events such as webinars weekly, where I learn about new research in critical race, ethnic, and gender studies that absolutely informs the administrative and institutional change work I am doing.

Notable Quotes:

"Virginia Tech is a really complex organization...[and what I like doing is] navigating organizations and figuring out how to work with like-minded people and people who share the same priorities as me...to leverage our power [and] the university's resources to accomplish what we want - which is a university that not only reflects the diversity of this country and this region, but also centers knowledges that have for the most part been marginalized in academia."

"The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences is the place within the academy where those marginalized knowledge production fields have had the most salient impact on how people get trained now. And one of the things that we need to do is to make sure that, in my College, the faculty represent ... cutting edge or emergent ... methods and interdisciplinary training rooted in the critical analysis of race, class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion.... [Additionally,] that's addressing the structural piece ... meaning structural or procedural impediments. "

ACEC Events

AASU Culture Show

- November 15 at 9 PM EST
- Event page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/3814080231957710>



ACEC, Cook Counseling, and Hokie Wellness at Virginia Tech Present:

APIDAS & SUICIDE

A PARTICIPATORY AND INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Given the significance of COVID-19 with regards to increasing social isolation, the ACEC, Cook Counseling, and Hokie Wellness hope to address the sensitive matter of depression and suicide. As suicide rates typically spike around the holiday season, this information session and workshop will provide a review of statistics on the APIDA suicide rates ranging from the community, state, and national levels. Through this interactive workshop, participants will develop skills and practice with each other to better address situations related to depression and suicide.

TUESDAY, NOV. 10 5:00 PM EST

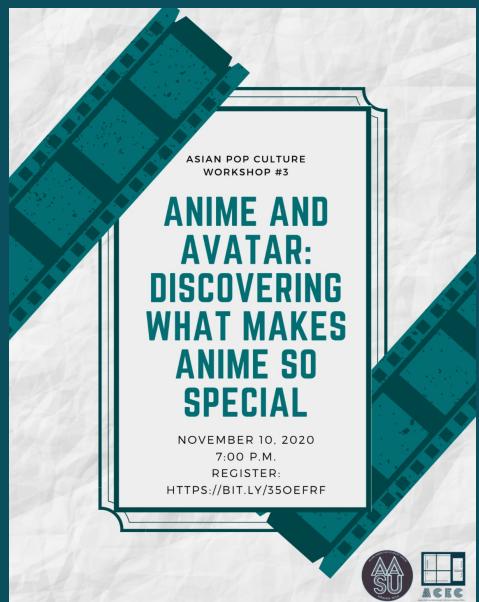
REGISTER IN ADVANCE:
[HTTPS://RB.GY/Q3RAQU](https://rb.gy/q3raqu)

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT DR. HA AT
NHA@VT.EDU

  STUDENT AFFAIRS COOK COUNSELING CENTER 

APIDAs and Suicide

- November 10 at 5 PM EST
- Register at:
<https://rb.gy/q3raqu>



AASU Pop Culture Workshop #3

- November 10 at 7 PM EST
- Register at:
<https://bit.ly/35oEFrf>

The ACEC Presents



THE LEARNING LUNCH SERIES WITH DR. SHAILA MEHRA

DR. MEHRA IS ASSISTANT DEAN FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN AFRICANA STUDIES. SHE EARNED HER PhD IN LITERATURE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER. HER RESEARCH AND TEACHING FOCUS ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ART AND LITERATURE, BLACK FEMINIST THEORY, AND BLACK INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS. PREVIOUSLY SHE WAS DIRECTOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY. SHE HALTS FROM ST. LOUIS, MO AND IS SECOND-GEN INDIAN AMERICAN.

Friday, November 13 | 12-1PM EST

Register here: <https://rb.gy/08abyz>

For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu



November Learning Lunch with Dr. Shaila Mehra

- November 13 from 12-1 PM EST

THE CCCS AND CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS:

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE IN THE WORKPLACE

17 NOVEMBER 2020 | 12-1 PM EST

ZOOM LINK:
[HTTPS://VIRGINIATECH.ZOOM.US/J/97671829497](https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/97671829497)
MEETING ID: 97671829497

For questions, contact Dr. Ha at nha@vt.edu or Weston Truss at weston19@vt.edu

 CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTERS VIRGINIA TECH.  CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIRGINIA TECH.

Career and Professional Development: Global Perspective in the Work Place

- November 17 from 12-1 PM

- Register: <https://rb.gy/08abyz>
- Zoom Link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/89490441307>

- EST
- Zoom Link: <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/J/97671829497>

APIDA Caucus Information

APIDA Caucus

The APIDA Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who self-identify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community. The Caucus also serves as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals.

For more information and/or to get involved, please contact: Vincent Wang (vmwang@vt.edu), Theo Lim (tclim@vt.edu), or Hana Chan (hxc419@vt.edu).

To be added to our new email listserv (apidacaucus-q@vt.edu) and to get more information, please contact Rommelyn Coffren at rconde@vt.edu. Want to get involved? Find us on Twitter @VTAPIDACaucus!

APIDA Caucus Lunch Socials

Come and join us for virtual lunch hours where APIDA community members can socialize and network! All faculty, staff, students, and community members are welcome!

Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm

Dates: Tuesdays (10/27, 11/10, 12/1, 12/15)

Link: <https://bit.ly/3odS26V>



Halloween Cos-Zoom Party!

We want to see your spookiest, cutest, and most fun costumes! Kids and pets especially welcome! Open to all APIDA community members, faculty, staff, students, and allies.

Facebook Event: <https://fb.me/e/2TUCZzTgk>

Zoom Registration: bit.ly/34dnri3



Survey for APIDA Graduate Students

Graduate students who identify as Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) are invited to share their thoughts about their experiences with faculty mentoring at Virginia Tech. To participate, use this form: <https://forms.gle/m737YCarz8Pui2116>. All graduate students (including international students) who identify as APIDA are encouraged to respond and can enter a raffle to win a free padfolio from the Virginia Tech Cultural and Community Centers upon survey completion. The survey will take 15-30 minutes to complete. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Hana Chan at hxc419@vt.edu. This project is part of the Graduate School's Diversity Scholars program.

AASU Affiliated Organizations

**Join Sigmas in supporting women in need!
All donated money go to the Women's
Resource Center of the New River Valley
(Venmo: @VTSIGMAS)**



Domestic Violence Month: Bingo Fundraiser by Sigma Psi Zeta

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was first introduced in 1901 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence as a Day of Unity to connect advocates for battered womxn across the country. Every October, our goals are to educate others about domestic violence, speak out against it to break the cycle, and support survivors.



Unaffiliated ACEC Information

The FAFSA for 2021-2022:

the FAFSA opened on October 1 for the 2021-2022 academic year. All students are encouraged to complete the FAFSA as early as possible. Please help us by spreading the word to students in any newsletter or social media forum you have at your disposal:

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is now open for the 2021-2022 academic year! The FAFSA can be accessed by visiting:

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. For maximum scholarship and financial aid consideration, please complete your FAFSA and General Application by January 22, 2021. The General Application can be accessed by visiting Scholarship Central at: <https://vt.academicworks.com/>.

NAKASEC Vote-By-Mail Videos for Virginia:

Website: <http://nakasec.org/va/voting>

English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvMRfSv_o4s

Korean: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkJW3oXGuMTs>

Vietnamese: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69mc_urW0Jq

Mandarin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZseoyFHAjP8>

Black State of Union

Let your voice be heard! Complete Survey and Register

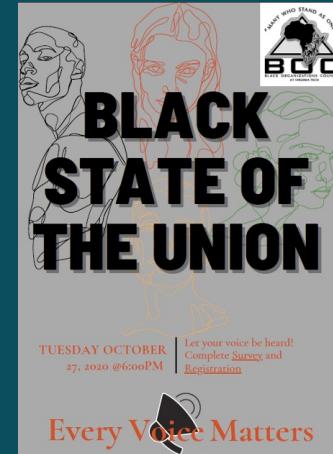
We invite you to join us for the annual Black State of the Union, which will be held on Tuesday, October 27 at 6PM. Below are links for a brief climate survey and a registration link for the event. This survey will help us gauge concerns within the larger black student community. The survey expires on Friday, October 23 @ 10:00PM, so we encourage everyone to complete it as soon as possible. Please feel free to share this flyer and information.

Survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSery3DKCm4600QOVpdGBYI6gyJRzOQwJHiVTrRgvphH9oq-g/viewform?usp=sf_link

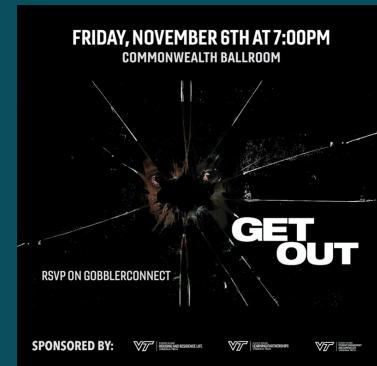
Registration:

https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QJK57FzQQcqhKN4_iNdmyA



Movie screening: Get Out on Friday, November 6th at 7PM

RSVP on GobblerConnect!



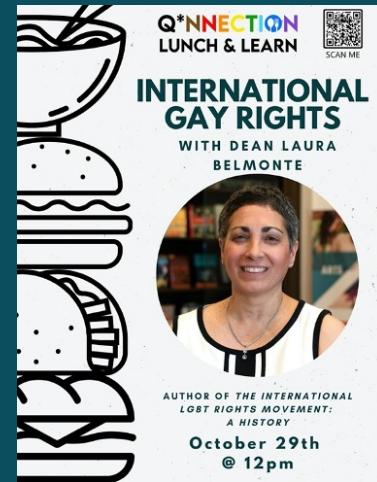
AIICC Virtual Lunch Series: Beyond the Music with Tall Paul

- November 11 at 2PM EST
- Register at: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_il6Z_tY_Ry6sGna-oJbdwQ



LGBTQ+ Resource Center October Q*nection

- October 29 at 12 PM EST
- Register at: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0rlTuSXRTPaYsEZJ97O_AQ



AIICC Unsettling University Spaces: Reimagining Higher Education for Indigenous Students

- October 28 at 5:30 PM EST
- Register at: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HXiNBKf6TmyP0SGzK1nLkw?fbclid=IwAR1m7k1OT4hAc58BfneQpHB_yXffJ6U3x3WvFe5KZysaUzvyga2D9J2iqBQ



Diversity & Inclusion Virtual Career Fair

Looking for a job, internship, or Co-op? Save valuable time and meet recruiters online. Diverse job seekers are invited to join this virtual event to meet top-notch employers recruiting sought after talent. The Diversity and Inclusion Virtual Career Fair will be held on October 29th from 11 am to 4 pm EST. Register at: CareerEco.com/Events/Diversity.



The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Panel and Question & Answer Session: A Discussion on Systemic Racism within the Disability Community

A panel that will discuss the significance of systemic racism within the disability community will be held on November 13th at 12-2:30 PM. The panelists featured are Dr. Janice Underwood (Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer of the Commonwealth of Virginia), Leah Dozier-Walker (Director for Equity and Community Engagement), Virginia Department of Education) Grace Kim (Attorney, Special Education and Education Law Ronnie Sidney, II, Best-selling author, speaker, consultant, and licensed therapist).

Registration:

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkfuyvrzMugtcGZCwk7IAveaEQMZ_sukqQ

Public · Hosted by Ethnicity, Migration, Rights at Harvard University

"Processing the Pandemic: The AAPI COVID-19 Project, Findings, Methods, Community" is a two-part workshop series that showcases AAPI responses to COVID-19—as both a virus and a social construction—throughout the social sciences, with particular emphasis on methods, findings, and community engagement. Directly responding to the increase in anti-Asian racism and to the inequalities made manifest by COVID-19, the AAPI COVID-19 Project is a collective research project that brings together social scientists and humanists with the aim of studying the pandemic through the lens of Asian American and Pacific Islander lives and experience. The workshops will discuss preliminary findings and research methods of interviews and data collection as well as ways of organizing and building community resilience during the pandemic.

RSVP here for the Zoom link: <https://forms.gle/J5ddncui9iUBLjb8>

Early Vote Free Shuttle Service from VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning

The Center for Leadership and Service Learning free shuttle service to the early vote site locations. Please see the information below about the shuttles and share them with your students and networks!

Furthermore, there will be a train the trainer event on Thursday, October 29 from 2-3:30p on Facilitating Post-Election Conversations with Students. The workshop will focus on providing tools and resources to engage in civic discussions with students. While the resources can be useful for any civics discussion, there will be a specific focus on the 2020 election. Individuals can register here: <http://bit.ly/HokiesVoteTraining>

Shuttles:

Do you want to cast your vote early for this year's election? Need a ride? If you are registered to vote in Montgomery County (where Virginia Tech is located), VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning is offering a free shuttle service to help students and employees vote early! The shuttle will go to one of the county's two early vote locations (the Uptown Christiansburg Mall.)

Shuttles will be offered at various times from Monday - Saturday until early voting ends on Saturday, October 31. Each trip is estimated to be around 40 minutes (time includes round-trip ride to Christiansburg and voting.) Sign up for an appointment slot here. After registering for an appointment, voters will need to meet the shuttle at the VT Engage office at 417 Clay St SW in Blacksburg at least five minutes prior to the departure time.

To maintain a safe environment for passengers and drivers, no more than three people (including the driver) will be in the shuttle at one time. Drivers are required to take passengers' temperatures and ask COVID-19 screening questions before passengers are permitted to enter the vehicle. Additionally, all passengers are required to wear a face-covering throughout the experience and passengers will use opposite doors to enter and exit the vehicle.

Don't forget to bring a valid form of identification to vote! A Hokie Passport counts as an acceptable form of ID for voting. Other acceptable IDs include:

- Voter confirmation documents
- Valid Virginia driver's license
- Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- United States passport
- Employer-issued photo ID
- Student ID issued by any community college or university located in the United States
- Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID

- Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID
- Virginia Voter Photo ID card
- A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document containing the name and address of the voter

A full list of IDs can be found on the [Virginia Board of Elections website](#).

Have additional questions about voting? Head to engage.vt.edu/vote for a list of our frequently asked questions or contact Jes Davis at jesdavis@vt.edu or 540-231-6947. Other questions about the shuttle service can be directed to Jes.

Accessible Voting Information & Requests for Accommodations for Shuttle

Any person, regardless of their disability status, has the right to register to vote at any office or agency that provides such a service. A person with cognitive disabilities can be eligible to register and vote if not adjudicated mentally incapacitated by a court of law. More information on accessible voting can be found on the [Virginia Board of Elections website](#).

If you are an individual with a disability and desire accommodation to participate in the VT Engage shuttle service, welcome! Contact Jes Davis (information listed above) during regular business hours at least 72 hours prior to the appointment time.

Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is actively recruiting students who want to make a real difference in the life of fellow Hokies! SGA is a vital student voice, one that represents all undergraduate students.

Students involved with SGA learn about leadership, compromise, advocacy, and the power of caring deeply for others by putting ideas into action. They are servant leaders, striving to make campus better through shared governance and a desire to make meaningful change. Positions in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are open as well as opportunities to serve on

University Commissions. For more information on how you can serve your campus community with SGA, visit bit.ly/applysga. Applications are due by October 30th. For questions, please email sga@vt.edu



Spring 2021 Internship at VT Women's Center

Looking for an Internship? Gender-Based Violence Prevention Internship- Plan, coordinate, and execute ongoing awareness and education opportunities around issues of gender-based violence on our campus. Gender Equity Internship- Plan, coordinate, and execute ongoing awareness and education opportunities on gender and women's issues. Apply now at www.womenscenter.vt.edu/intern. Applications due by October 30th.



Social Media



