

NEWS & INFORMATION

Monday, Feb. 16, 2015 -- Volume 11, Number 26



An invitation to join the InclusiveVT Advisory Community

Please join in expanding the impact of InclusiveVT! Individuals and groups dedicated to advancing Virginia Tech's inclusion and diversity efforts, especially those currently engaged in programs, services, and advocacy, are invited to a working session on March 5 from 3-5 p.m. in Owens Banquet Room to help launch the InclusiveVT Advisory Community. The event will be livestreamed, with more information available closer to the session on the InclusiveVT website at: www.inclusive.vt.edu.

The Advisory Community will be comprised of individuals and groups across the university community who bring unique perspectives to InclusiveVT and self-identify as being active, intentional, and engaged members in the inclusion efforts of Virginia Tech. The group will provide feedback to the President's Inclusion and Diversity Executive Council and university leadership on initiatives and other inclusion and diversity efforts. All are welcome!

The InclusiveVT work continues and progress is ongoing so please plan to be there on March 5. To assist with logistics for the session, register at www.virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3jC3QHJNsleBdPv.

Become an official weather spotter

Help protect your community by becoming an official Skywarn spotter for the National Weather Service. Reports of severe weather from trained Skywarn spotters help the National Weather Service issue life-saving warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash flooding.

The Office of Emergency Management and the National Weather Service Office are sponsoring a Basic Skywarn Spotter Class on Tuesday March 17 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The training will be held in the Cascades Room at the Inn at Virginia Tech.

A meteorologist from the National Weather Service will discuss how volunteer Skywarn Spotters can help provide timely and accurate warning to the public when severe weather threatens our area. Discussion topics include characteristics of severe thunderstorms, storm safety tips, and reporting criteria/procedures.

The class is free and open to the public. Registration is not necessary.

Visit www.nws.noaa.gov/skywarn/ for more information about the Skywarn program.

For more information contact the Office of Emergency Management at 540-231-2438.

Register for Bike, Bus, and Walk program

Faculty, staff, and students who use alternative transportation as their primary means of commuting to

campus can register for the Bike, Bus, and Walk program and get discounted parking permits and access to an emergency ride home service.

Participants in the program receive 15 daily parking permits per semester with the option to purchase additional daily permits. In addition, participants can get a ride to their vehicle or local residence in case of an emergency. This service is available for Blacksburg campus participants Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants are not eligible to purchase regular semester or yearly parking permits while they are registered with the program.

Faculty and staff members must have an on-campus office address to register for the Bike, Bus, and Walk program.

Registration for the Bike, Bus, and Walk program can be done at the Parking and Transportation office at 605 Research Center Dr.

For more information contact Debby Freed at 540-231-0248 or visit www.tcs.vt.edu/alternative/cap.asp#bbw.

Blacksburg Transit discussion at Town Gown meeting

Blacksburg Transit bus service in and around Virginia Tech and the surrounding community is the topic of February's Town Gown meeting. Students, staff, faculty and area residents are invited to attend the forum, held February 26, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Great Room of Ambler Johnston Hall on the Virginia Tech campus. Blacksburg town officials, Blacksburg Transit leaders and Virginia Tech administration will be on hand to answer questions and take comments.

Town Gown meetings are held monthly during the academic year. They focus on a wide variety of topics involving students, the university and relations with the Town of Blacksburg and surrounding communities. The sessions are moderated by Frank Shushok, Jr., Senior Associate Vice President for Student Affairs at Virginia Tech and Steven Ross, Blacksburg Deputy Town Manager.

For more information, contact Bill Foy (540) 231-5258 or fwill55@vt.edu.

Virginia Tech joins the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity

Virginia Tech is now an institutional member of the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity.

The independent center provides professional development, training, and mentorship opportunities to more than 65,000 members representing colleges and universities in the United States. The center focuses on helping faculty, particularly underrepresented faculty, successfully make the transition from graduate student to professor.

As an institutional member since Feb. 16, graduate students, post-doctoral associates, and faculty members from

all ranks can enroll in a free sub-account membership to get access to the center's online resources which include webinars, multi-week courses, discussion forums, accountability matches, and career center, among others. Resources focus on increasing productivity, time management, maintaining work-life balance, resolving conflict, personal organizations, and cultivating mentors, sponsors, and collaborators.

All faculty members at Virginia Tech are able to create an account to access the center's online resources. Information about this benefit and how to sign up is posted on the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost's website at www.provost.vt.edu/faculty_affairs/faculty_development/faculty_development_main.html.

Membership in the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity is one of the InclusiveVT initiatives put forward by the Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost. InclusiveVT is the new model to advance inclusion and diversity efforts at the university. The approach required every senior leader to submit at least three initiatives within their area of responsibility. Each initiative was made public in order to hold leaders accountable for progress.

Veterinary students to offer Community Dog Wash March 7

Students at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine will hold their biannual Community Dog Wash from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 on the Virginia Tech campus.

The dog wash will be held at the rear of the veterinary college complex on 245 Duck Pond Drive, on the side closest to Southgate Drive. Signs on Southgate Drive and Duck Pond Drive will guide participants to the event.

Presented by Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students enrolled in the college, the dog wash is always a popular community event. The cost is \$10, and for an additional \$5, customers can have their dogs' nails trimmed and ears cleaned.

Animals will be washed on a first-come, first-served basis, and no appointments are necessary. Dogs will be washed while owners wait. Dogs must be on a leash and be at least 5 months old with current vaccinations.

The dog wash is sponsored by the DVM Class of 2018 and the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, a professional organization for DVM students.

For more information email Joshua Peters at jrpct89@vt.edu or Samantha Mines at smines01@vt.edu.

Blacksburg Transit rides free to faculty/staff with Hokie Passport

Looking for a way to get to your next meeting, or run an errand, without giving up your parking spot?

Virginia Tech employees may ride the BT, Blacksburg Transit, for free, just by showing the driver their Hokie Passport ID when boarding.

The BT has a variety of routes with service in Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

During the fall and spring semesters, all routes are in operation with multiple buses operating on each route typically every 10-15 minutes. At times when students are on breaks (winter, spring, summer, fall) one bus operates on each route, providing 30 minute to hourly service. Occasionally, some routes may be combined or will not operate during reduced service.

The BT also offers game day service for football games and basketball games. A full listing of schedules and maps is available online at www.blacksburg.gov/Index.aspx?page=885.

For additional questions about the Hokie Passport card, call 540-231-5121. For questions or comments call 540-961-1185.

New leave reporting system will impact all salaried employees

All salaried employees will be asked to begin using a new leave reporting tool in July, beginning with leave period 6. The system is currently being developed and will be piloted in May with a handful of departments.

Features of the new system include an updated interface, flexible routing, and a paperless process that incorporates the hours and time worked report (P-128).

Online tutorials and in-person training classes will be available this spring/summer.

The current Leave Entry and Reporting Web System was launched in 1998.

For more information contact the Human Resources Service Center at 540-231-9331.

Important safety information about university telephones

Two important safety tips the university community should know about campus telephones:

- The vast majority of the Avaya telephones in university offices rely on building electrical power and the university's data network, and will not work during network or power outages. If you need more information about telephones that operate independently of building electricity, please contact Network Infrastructure and Services.

- There is an address (room, building, and street) associated with each telephone. That address is provided to emergency responders and must be kept up to date. Moving or installing phones yourself can lead to incorrect information. To ensure accuracy, please contact Network Infrastructure and Services to place orders to install or move telephones.

For more information contact Network Infrastructure and Services at 540-231-6460.

Learn how to repair, maintain bicycles

Employees are invited to participate in bicycle repair and maintenance workshops hosted by the Hokie Bike Hub.

- Daily fix-a-flat classes are held at noon, Monday through Friday.

- General maintenance workshops are held Mondays and Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. These workshops will cover skills ranging from when and how to oil a chain, shifting and braking adjustments, to wheel truing and other repairs.

Specific class themes will be posted at www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Tech-Hokie-Bike-Hub/220496888121196?ref=hl throughout the semester.

Virginia Tech News is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Department of Human Resources and the Office of University Relations as a service to university employees who do not have computer access on campus. For more information, or to discuss submission of items call 540-231-7643.