

## A message from President Tim Sands: Be part of InclusiveVT Week

As we continue an exciting fall semester at Virginia Tech, I invite you to join me in celebrating InclusiveVT Week on Sept. 8-13. Held annually on the week after Labor Day, InclusiveVT Week is dedicated to our institutional and individual commitment to Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence. Virginia Tech aspires to be a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive university for all, a place where we value our freedom to speak and communicate across our differences through civil and respectful dialogue.

This year's theme, "Where Everyone Belongs," provides a platform for faculty, staff, and students to engage, share ideas, and connect through activities that celebrate our diverse communities and strengthen our inclusive culture.

To learn more and take part, take a moment to review the week's activities at the InclusiveVT Week website [inclusive.vt.edu/about/inclusivevt-week.html](http://inclusive.vt.edu/about/inclusivevt-week.html). The list is updated daily so check back often. In addition to these events, there are many other things you can do.

As an employee you can:

- Offer to help someone who is busier than you at work.
- Tell someone's supervisor they are doing a great job.
- Encourage a colleague who is struggling.
- Grab a coffee or go to lunch with someone you haven't seen in a while.
- Invite someone to join you at one of the art exhibits.
- Meet your InclusiveVT representative.
- Each one of us has the power to make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for building up our community.

Sincerely,

Tim Sands,  
President

## VT Alerts test scheduled for Sept. 12 at all Virginia Tech locations

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts system on Sept. 12, 2019 on the Blacksburg campus, as well as at all university facilities across Virginia.

The test will occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

During the test, there will also be outdoor sirens with annunciators on the Blacksburg campus.

VT Alerts is the university's emergency notification system. It is used to communicate critical information with the Virginia Tech community in the event of emergency on campus. VT Alerts are issued when there is a need for community members to take immediate protective action, during university closures, or during system-wide tests in the fall and spring semesters.

When a VT Alert is sent out, the information is communicated with the community via outdoors sirens, fire alarm annunciators, electronic message boards (Blacksburg only), emails to vt.edu addresses, and social media updates. Additionally, Virginia Tech family and community members subscribing to VT Alerts will receive phone calls, text messages, emails to non-Virginia Tech email addresses, and VT Desktop Alerts. Individuals may subscribe to VT Alerts by visiting the VT Alerts website.

Those with a Virginia Tech PID are eligible to subscribe to VT Alerts, which can be sent to a cell phone (by voice or text message), landline, or a non-Virginia Tech email address. Subscribers are able to choose up to three preferred contact methods when subscribing to VT Alerts.

Students and employees are strongly encouraged to log into the VT Alerts website to update notification preferences and verify contact information prior to the Sept. 12 test.

While in the system, users can also choose up to three regions in which to receive notifications. VT Alerts include a regional identifier to assist subscribers in differentiating messages based on location.

Individuals who have subscribed to receive alerts, but do not receive a phone alert during the Sept. 12 test should first log in to verify that their record is correct and then contact 4Help at 540-231-HELP (4357).

All community members should expect to receive duplicate messages. This redundancy is intentional to ensure important information reaches as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

During an emergency: In the event of an actual emergency, individuals should be aware of their surroundings and take immediate responsibility for their personal safety and security. Initial VT Alerts messages will provide basic information on the

nature and location of the emergency, as well as instructions for what to do.

Subsequent VT Alerts messages or first responders will provide additional instructions and updates about the incident until the all clear is given.

Detailed information, when available, will be posted to the university status page.

Visit the VT Alerts website for more information and to sign up for alerts.

Please direct questions to Virginia Tech Emergency Management at 540-231-4873 or [oem@vt.edu](mailto:oem@vt.edu).

## Virginia Tech Police Community Day offers family fun on Sept. 21

Compete in an obstacle course, challenge your doughnut eating skills, and try your luck at dunking a police officer at the Virginia Tech Police Department's annual Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Drillfield.

Community Day is just one of the events taking place during Virginia Tech's Fall Family Weekend, ([https://family.dsa.vt.edu/family\\_weekends/fall\\_family\\_weekend.html](https://family.dsa.vt.edu/family_weekends/fall_family_weekend.html)).

Students, employees, the general public, and their families are invited to attend the free event to learn more about the award-winning and nationally-accredited police department.

The event will include activities for all ages including drunk goggle carts to simulate driving under the influence, a donut eating contest, two obstacle courses, "Dunk-A-Cop," and much more.

There will also be free food and prizes. Participants will have the opportunity to view demonstrations from Virginia Tech's Rescue Squad, K-9 teams, the Blacksburg Fire and Police Departments, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Christiansburg Police; and the Carillion Lifeguard helicopter crew.

More information on Community Day is available on the Virginia Tech Police Department's website <https://police.vt.edu/about/divisions/community-services/community-day.html>.

## University closing early September 27

On Friday, Sept. 27, Virginia Tech will host a nationally televised football game. Kickoff is at 7 p.m. in Lane Stadium.

Early closing: Virginia Tech President Tim Sands has approved the closing of all university offices at 3 p.m. on Sept. 27, with the exception of faculty and staff directly supporting classroom instruction and other critical university operations. Classes will not be cancelled. Employees who are departing campus are strongly advised to remove their vehicles from the parking lots by 3:15 p.m. to avoid the traffic and parking challenges associated with the game.

**Parking:** Parking lot clearance activities for the game affecting resident students begin as early as Thursday, Sept. 26.

More information about routine game day parking changes, including which lots are affected, what times vehicles must be removed by, and other parking and transportation options is available at <https://parking.vt.edu/parking/sep/football-parking.html>.

### Questions

- For more information about the authorized closing, contact the HR Service Center at 540-231-9331.
- For more information about parking and transportation call 540-231-3200 or email [parking@vt.edu](mailto:parking@vt.edu) or the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-231-6411 after regular business hours.
- For more information about reserved Hokie Club lots, call the Athletic Department at 540-231-9963.

## Hokie Wellness offering program for new and expectant parents

Hokie Wellness will offer "Planning for Baby and Returning to Work" for faculty and staff who are expecting the birth of a child or new parents with a child or children under three months.

The program will be held the first and third Thursday of each month. On the first Thursday, the program will be for faculty and the third Thursday will be for staff. All expecting and new parents are welcome to attend including fathers, non-birth mothers and adoptive parents.

The next session, for faculty, will be Thursday, Sept. 5, from 12-1 p.m. in room 2410 at the North End Center. The next session, for staff, will be Thursday, Sept. 19, same time and location. Topics to be discussed include benefits, leave, and resources available to new parents.

A light lunch will be served and, upon completion of the program, participants will receive a Hokie Wellness/Virginia Tech onesie for their baby.

Registration is required and can be completed online at [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9oZDyHI-wytGTMhL](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oZDyHI-wytGTMhL). For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or by calling 540-231-8878.