

## A message from President Tim Sands on Principles of Community Week

To the university community,

We aspire for Virginia Tech to be a welcoming, accessible, and inclusive campus for all. We value our freedom to speak and our ability to talk to each other across differences through civil and respectful dialogue. Our commitment to these values is expressed in our Principles of Community, which we publicly re-affirm each year during Principles of Community Week. Now in its fifth year, this relatively new Virginia Tech tradition is an important opportunity to mark our progress and acknowledge that there is much work to do as we seek continual improvement.

During the week of March 18-22, I urge you to take time to reflect on these Principles and how they support our commitment to our living motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence through InclusiveVT. Take advantage of the opportunities to engage through Principles of Community Week events, such as the Principles of Community Workshop, An Onstage Conversation with Zadie Smith, and the Council on VT History Program.

You can learn more about these and other events on the Principles of Community Week web page. You can also find opportunities to engage throughout the year by visiting our Cultural and Community Centers, Women's Center, and Cranwell International Center. Please take time to participate and make a personal investment in the diversity and strength of our community.

Tim Sands  
President

## Survey to provide insight into university climate

Work is underway at Virginia Tech to distribute a survey to all undergraduate and graduate students to collect their feedback on campus climate issues.

This survey follows a similar effort targeted to university employees completed this fall. When combined, the data collected from these two surveys will help the university to develop strategies and make informed decisions that will improve campus climate, job satisfaction, and ensure that our

Principles of Community create a culture of inclusion and an environment that nurtures learning and growth for everyone.

In October, the university invited employees to complete a campus climate survey ([bit.ly/2NKE7Sb](https://bit.ly/2NKE7Sb)) to gauge perceptions about our climate, diversity, inclusion, leadership, work environment, and job satisfaction. Thirty-four percent of employees responded to the fall survey ([bit.ly/2lpK09T](https://bit.ly/2lpK09T)); data collected will be provided to university leadership for their review and to begin conversations with their teams.

"I want to thank all faculty and staff who took the survey and provided valuable feedback, along with Vice President for Diversity, Inclusion, and Strategic Affairs Menah Pratt-Clarke, new Vice President for Human Resources Bryan Garey, and the team that developed the tool used to collect information about ourselves," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "The early review of the data affirms that Virginia Tech is a great place to work and learn, and also identifies opportunities for improvement.

"In the upcoming months the results of this survey, combined with data collected from students will help us make informed decisions and develop meaningful strategies to improve our campus climate, increase job satisfaction, and strengthen our commitment to the Principles of Community," said Sands.

"University campuses are places with many voices and diverse opinions," said Garey. "We seek to hear and better understand all these voices, and by doing so, we can more fully learn about ourselves and others so that we may grow together."

Information regarding the student survey will be shared through Virginia Tech Daily and the weekly student email.

## Feb. 23 campus group bike ride offers free opportunity to try Roam NRV bike share

Since launch in August 2018, over 5,000 cyclists have ridden an impressive 12,000 miles on the bright orange Roam NRV bikes found across Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

The Roam NRV bike share program was launched

through a regional partnership among Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County.

Along with the convenience and flexibility of bike share, the Roam NRV partnership offers an environmentally-friendly link to greater Blacksburg and Christiansburg and the Huckleberry Trail. So far, Roam NRV cyclists have reduced their environmental footprint by almost 10,000 pounds of carbon emissions when compared to driving.

Students, faculty, and staff interested in trying Roam NRV are invited to do so free of charge at the campus group ride on Feb. 23 from 1-3 p.m. The 2.7 mile campus ride will start at the Moss Arts Center parking lot, wind throughout the Blacksburg campus, and end at the Goodwin parking lot in front of the Hokie Bike Hub. The group ride is suitable for cyclists of all abilities and is a great way to try out the bike share program.

Questions can be directed to [gettingaround@vt.edu](mailto:gettingaround@vt.edu). For additional information about the ride, visit [bit.ly/2TUms8](http://bit.ly/2TUms8).

## Become a Giving Day Ambassador

Virginia Tech's 2nd Annual Giving Day starts noon, March 19! As a Giving Day ambassador, you help create excitement about Virginia Tech Giving Day before and during the campaign. Ambassadors are asked to do the following:

1. Make your gift between noon on March 19 and noon on March 20. If you have already made a gift this year, thank you! By making an additional gift of at least \$5 during the 24 hours, you can help us secure essential funding for what you love most about Virginia Tech.
2. Email your networks and ask them to join you in making a gift on Giving Day. Sample email messages and suggested timeline are in the Ambassador toolkit that you'll be able to access once you sign up.
3. Spread the word. Talk about Giving Day on your own social media outlets: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Use your custom URL to track how many gifts you personally bring in from your network.

As a registered ambassador, you can use the personalized link from your Ambassador Dashboard to encourage others to give. Throughout the day, you will receive insider Ambassador Updates and be able to track your impact on the campaign in your customized Ambassador Dashboard as gifts come in. To get started, sign up at [bit.ly/2T9BnEU](http://bit.ly/2T9BnEU).

## Legal Resources educational seminars on campus

Legal Resources is offering free legal seminars at the North End Center to educate employees on Identity Theft and Legal Wellness issues. Registration is not required.

Visit [bit.ly/2tCITuJ](http://bit.ly/2tCITuJ) for class listings, and contact the Legal Resources Member Services Department with any questions at 800-728-5768 or visit their website at [legalresources.com](http://legalresources.com).

## Learn more about the homebuying process

Join Hokie Wellness on Tuesday, Feb. 26, from 12-1 p.m., at the North End Center, room 2200, for "Homeownership: Where do I start?"

Buying the first home, or just overwhelmed with the process? Let Community Housing Partners help with becoming more knowledgeable and feeling at ease during the homebuying process. During this class, learn the steps in the homebuying process and a general timeline of how long it takes, the professionals encountered along the way, and the costs that can be expected during and after home purchase. Registration is required at [bit.ly/2WZLuLi](http://bit.ly/2WZLuLi). For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878.

## There's still time to get the flu shot

Flu season can last as late as May according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Virginia Tech encourages all Hokies to protect yourself and others this season.

Vaccinations are available at most pharmacies and through health care providers. State health plan members may get a free flu vaccine at pharmacies participating in their health plan's network. Visit [bit.ly/2GI79BV](http://bit.ly/2GI79BV) for more information.

- COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members may receive flu shots at no cost from network physicians' offices and other participating providers.
- Kaiser Permanente HMO members must go to a participating Kaiser medical center.

**Other ways to protect against the flu:** The easiest way to protect against the flu is to use good sanitation practices. This includes, washing hand repeatedly, using a mask, and using hand sanitizer.

For questions, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878.

## Hokies Live Well spring program encourages participation in wellness activities

Hokies Live Well is a program for Virginia Tech employees that encourages participation in wellness activities throughout the semester. The program includes the following categories: move well, eat well, relax well, and be well. To register for Hokies Live Well, visit [bit.ly/2AKwt6v](http://bit.ly/2AKwt6v). For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878.

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