

**A message from President Sands about the campus climate survey**

University campuses are places with many voices, diverse opinions, and vigorous debates. This is how we learn about ourselves and others – and hopefully grow in understanding.

Our campus climate is a vital part of this process, and that's why I want to encourage everyone to participate in a new climate survey we are conducting during this academic year. The survey will measure your perceptions about climate, engagement, diversity, inclusion, leadership, work environment, and job satisfaction.

Between fall and spring semester, we'll collect data from the full Virginia Tech community – employees and students at all locations.

Today, all employees will receive a message inviting them to complete the survey between now and Nov. 9. Those who do not have access to a computer will be able to complete a paper survey. Undergraduate and graduate students will be invited to respond to the survey during the spring semester.

The information we will learn will help us develop strategies and make informed decisions that will improve our campus climate, and ensure that our Principles of Community create a culture of inclusion and an environment that nurtures learning and growth for everyone.

Watch for more information on the survey and, again, I strongly encourage you to participate. Every response matters and your feedback will make a difference.

Tim Sands,
President

Share your feedback; take the campus climate survey by Nov. 9

The 2018-19 campus climate survey is open now for all Virginia Tech employees across all university locations. We encourage every employee to take the survey and share your feedback. Employees have until Nov. 9 to take the survey. Your responses are absolutely confidential.

With this year's survey, we've made some changes. For the first time, we've created one survey that every member of the Virginia Tech community – all students and employees across all locations – will be able to take. Following the employee survey this fall, students will be able to take the climate survey during the spring semester.

We've also updated the climate survey questions based on our current campus environment and university vision.

Every response matters as we work to create and support a workplace climate that fosters inclusion and diversity, and allows all students and employees to be productive and engaged members of our campus communities. Don't miss this chance to speak up, speak out, and let your voice be heard. For employees with access to email, check for a message from Ross Mecham (rmecham@vt.edu), Virginia Tech's organizational development director, which was sent on Monday, Oct. 15. For employees who do not have access to email, a paper survey can be provided. Contact your supervisor or Ross Mecham at 540-231-5092.

For more information about the climate survey visit bit.ly/2NKE7Sb.

2018 Commonwealth of Virginia campaign continues raising money for local charities

Thanks to the generosity of our employees, the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) has raised more than \$84,000 of the university's \$375,000 goal since the kickoff on Sept. 24.

CVC is a workplace giving program where state employees designate financial gifts to one or more participating charities varying in health and human services, animal welfare, environmental conservation, and medical research. With more than 1,000 participating, there is a charity available for everyone.

This year's campaign will run until Dec. 14, so there is still plenty of time left to contribute. No donation is too small, and all donations will help reach our university goal. Employees can donate through online payroll deduction, choosing either a one-time

deduction or a 24-pay period deduction. To contribute to the campaign, donations can be made through the campaign website. Cash and checks are also accepted; pledge cards are available for those who do not have online access.

More information about the campaign can be found on the CVC website at cvc.hr.vt.edu.

University offices to close at 3 p.m. for Oct. 25 football game

President Tim Sands has approved the closing of all university offices at 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 25, with the exception of faculty and staff directly supporting classroom instruction and other critical university operations. The closing will help the university facilitate traffic and other operational procedures for the football game that night against Georgia Tech. Kickoff for the game will be at 7:30 p.m.

Classes will not be cancelled. Employees who are departing campus are strongly advised to remove their vehicles from the parking lots by 3:10 p.m. in order to avoid traffic and parking challenges associated with the game.

Homecoming celebrations planned Oct. 29-Nov. 3

Virginia Tech will celebrate Homecoming with a week of activities for students, alumni, and friends Oct. 29 through Nov. 3.

On Friday evening, the Spirit Rally will be held at the Holtzman Alumni Center Lawn at 8 p.m., which will include fireworks at about 8:45 p.m. Following the rally, young alumni and seniors are invited to the Young Alumni Terrace Party at the alumni center.

The festivities will continue Saturday with a pregame tailgate, HokieTalks lecture series, and the Homecoming parade. The tailgate will begin four hours prior to kickoff.

Following the tailgate, the Hokies will face Boston College. Before the game there will be a pregame flyover by four Navy jets.

Learn more about the homecoming celebrations: vt.edu/homecoming. Read more of the article: bit.ly/2RVqh2H.

Hokie Wellness is looking for Wellness Champions

Applications for Wellness Champions will be accepted Oct. 15-31. Virginia Tech Hokie Wellness Champions are employee volunteers that have a passion for wellness and

are instrumental in supporting Hokie Wellness by promoting well-being programs to departments, colleagues, and friends on campus. Any Virginia Tech employee is invited to submit an application to become a Wellness Champion. The goal is to create a group that represents the expansive and diverse Virginia Tech community.

Interested employees may visit the Wellness Champions web page for more information about commitment and requirements of the role. Applications will be available Oct. 15-31. They will be reviewed in November and Champions will be notified in December.

For questions or more information, contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or by calling 540-231-8878. Read more: bit.ly/2ykqy7i.

Virginia Tech Science Festival returns Oct. 27

The Virginia Tech Science Festival returns to campus Saturday, Oct. 27, with 93 free hands-on, minds-on learning interactive booths and activities that showcase dozens of science education and research programs throughout the university, including physics, space, engineering, communication, geology, health and medicine, history, transportation, computers, chemistry, and more.

Events will be held in the Moss Arts Center, Carol M. Newman Library, Torgersen Hall, and along Alumni Mall. Parking on campus will be free during event hours. The day kicks off at 10 a.m., with the main festival closing at 4 p.m., with science-based talks in the form of Nutshell Games beginning at 4:30 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public. Parking will be free at Virginia Tech's North End Center parking deck and other campus locations.

Virginia Tech launched the first Science Festival in 2014. More than 5,000 people attended the festival in 2017. Festival organizers again are providing transportation to select school groups from across the state to attend, giving them the same chance to enjoy the STEM-focused event as local families.

Visit the festival website for more information: bit.ly/2CnQbGW. Read more of the article: bit.ly/2ymXjAF.