

Save the date for the 2017 Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair

Start the new year by learning how to weave wellness into your life at the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 11, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McComas Hall. While admission is free, employees are reminded to bring their Hokie Passport to sign in and to enter prize drawings at the exhibitor tables.

Activities include exercise classes, health, wellness, and benefits exhibitors, interactive activities, a bloodmobile, cooking demonstrations, and more. The cardio areas and weight rooms will be open to employees from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Employees are encouraged to bring comfortable clothes to experience a variety of recreational activities.

All employees will receive two hours of approved leave to attend the fair.

The event is sponsored by the Virginia Tech Department of Human Resources, the Division of Student Affairs, and Carilion Clinic.

Individuals who are interested in volunteering to help staff the fair should email Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu.

For more information visit http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/Employees/Programs/Annual_Health_and_Benefits_Fair.html or contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-8878 or hokiewellness@vt.edu.

New website will show university's operating status

Virginia Tech has launched a new university status website to provide students, employees, parents, community members, and visitors a central online source of information regarding the operating status of all university locations.

The site — www.vt.edu/status — can be found on the university's homepage and the Virginia Tech News page and will be maintained 365 days a year.

It will be updated whenever there is a change in the operational status to any or all university locations, including such circumstances as a holiday or winter break, if a location is impacted by severe weather, or if there is any interruption to a normal daily schedule, as was the case when classes in Wallace Hall were temporarily displaced due to a water main break this fall.

Campus locations listed on the university status website include the main Blacksburg campus and locations in the National Capital Region (Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Leesburg, Manassas, and Middleburg), Richmond, Hampton Roads, Roanoke, Abingdon, and Danville, as well as international centers.

The Virginia locations mirror the regions for which students and employees can sign up for VT Alerts.

VT Alerts, Virginia Tech's emergency notification system, is used when immediate action is required on the part of community members. In a campus emergency, the university will use several

information delivery methods, including campus-wide email, voice and text messages, desktop alerts, and Twitter.

Digital display boards in classrooms and other common meeting locations and outdoor sirens with voice enunciators are also used on the Blacksburg campus.

The university status page will also include information and links to other resources, including a live feed of the Blacksburg Transit schedule as well as educational information, safety resources, crime alerts, scam alerts, the LiveSafe mobile app, and a live Blacksburg campus weather camera.

Health notification: Virginia Department of Health ongoing investigation

Three cases of a sudden decrease in liver function in previously healthy individuals under the age of 25 are being investigated in Blacksburg.

The New River Valley Health District of the Virginia Department of Health is working in collaboration with community partners, including Virginia Tech, and health care providers in this investigation.

To date no clear links have been identified between the cases. The illness is not thought to be one that can be passed from person to person.

While the cause of this situation is undetermined at this time, there are a number of ways to keep your liver healthy:

- Avoid recreational, oral or intravenous drug abuse.
- Do not take prescription or other medication that has not been prescribed to you.
- Avoid excessive alcohol, don't leave your drink unattended, and only consume drinks you see being made.
- If you are sexually active, practice safe sex.
- Avoid tattoos from unlicensed artists.
- Keep your vaccines up-to-date.

For more information on liver health, contact your personal health care provider or your local health department.

This information is being released in accordance with the federal Jeanne Clery Act.

Virginia Tech will close for winter break; employees must use approved leave

Virginia Tech employees are reminded that the university will be closed for winter break (www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday_schedule/index.html) beginning Friday, December 23, 2016 through Monday, January 2, 2017. The university will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

All employees who earn annual leave must use annual or other appropriate leave balances to cover the four winter closing days from Dec. 27-Dec. 30. These days are not holidays. Employees must use leave to cover these days.

Supervisors must approve any exceptions, but are strongly

encouraged to be flexible and fair with employees and their individual work situations and personal circumstances in accordance with existing leave and alternative work policies. Salaried employees who do not work and have insufficient leave balances to cover the winter break will be placed in a leave-without-pay status in accordance with state and university leave policies.

Certain departments may remain open due to the nature of the work; in some cases, minimal or full staffing may be necessary. Each department head has the authority to designate the employees required to work during the winter break to support necessary university or departmental operations or functions. Normal holiday compensatory leave policies will apply when employees work on one of the officially designated state holidays. During the winter break, departments must make arrangements to retrieve, on a regular basis, communications (e.g., voicemail, email, etc.) from the public and provide a timely and appropriate response.

The resolution approved by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors is available at www.bov.vt.edu/minutes/10-06-07minutes/attachment_r_06-07-10.pdf.

For more information, contact the leave team at hrleave@vt.edu or 540-231-9331.

Changes coming to Genworth Life Insurance Company's long-term care policy

Beginning Dec. 31, Virginia Tech employees will no longer be able to enroll in the university's voluntary long-term care insurance plan. The state has not yet announced who will be the new vendor for voluntary long-term care insurance.

Current policyholders, and those who enroll between now and Dec. 31, will continue to have an active policy with Genworth. The company's president and CEO, Tom McInerney, has said that Genworth Life Insurance Company will honor the terms of all current policies as well as any received through Dec. 31.

According to McInerney there will not be any changes to any existing policies or disruptions to any services. Read the full message from McInerney at www.genworth.com/about-us/genworth-commitment.html.

More information will also be shared with employees via VT News when it becomes available.

For more information, contact Becky Morris, insurance coordinator, at 540-231-3781 or benefit8@vt.edu.

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity accepting nominations for Presidential Principles of Community Award

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity is now accepting nominations for the fourth annual Presidential Principles of Community Award. This award recognizes faculty and staff who exemplify the Principles of Community and have demonstrated an impact on diversity and inclusion at Virginia Tech.

The Principles of Community were established in 2005 and expanded in 2014 to affirm gender identity and gender expression. They were reaffirmed on Nov. 16, 2016 by the Virginia Tech Faculty Senate in response to faculty concerns regarding increased expressions of hatred against marginalized groups across the nation. A new video about the Principles of Community can be viewed at <http://inclusive.vt.edu/vtpoc0.html>.

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity will present two Presidential Principles of Community Awards this spring, one for faculty, and one for staff. The recipients will be selected by the Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity and will each receive a \$2,000 cash prize.

Nominations must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27, 2017 at https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aWyoq3sRjMD0hH7.

Nominations are welcome from alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members. More information, including eligibility information and guidelines, is available on the Office for Inclusion and Diversity website at <http://inclusive.vt.edu/vtpoc0/awards.html>.

Compliance workshop mandatory for all university employees

All Virginia Tech employees (faculty, staff, wage, student wage, and graduate students) are required to complete a compliance workshop within 90 days of employment and every 24 months thereafter (<http://oea.vt.edu/title-ix-vawa.html>).

This workshop covers the university's policy on discrimination and harassment and Virginia Tech's responsibilities related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA).

There are several options to complete the workshop:

- Attend an instructor-led workshop at the North End Center on the Blacksburg, Virginia campus. WebEx access is available periodically.
- Complete the workshop online using the on-demand module of the workshop described below.

Registration for each of the options listed above is required via Coursewhere. To register, visit www.training.vt.edu, select "view by alpha" and search for the course title:

- Compliance Workshop: Policy 1025, Title IX, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) (instructor-led, 90 minutes)
- Compliance Workshop – via WebEx: Policy 1025, Title IX, and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) (instructor-led, 90 minutes)
- Compliance Workshop On-Demand Module - Title IX: and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) (online, 55 minutes)

For more information, contact Dale Robinson at 540-231-1824 or dbr@vt.edu.

The Agronomy Club has extra peanuts for sale

The Agronomy Club at Virginia Tech has extra peanuts for sale. Items include:

- Chocolate covered peanuts for \$15
- Peanut brittle for \$14
- Trail mix for \$16
- Peanut squares for \$14
- Cashews for \$17
- Honey roasted peanuts for \$15
- Cajun peanuts for \$14
- Pub mix for \$12
- Cinnamon toasted almonds for \$16
- Raw red skin, shelled five pound bag for \$12
- Roasted salted in shell five pound bag for \$12
- Chocolate covered almonds for \$18

Contact Rachel Saville at saville@vt.edu to schedule a pickup date and time.

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.