

NEWS & INFORMATION

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National Capital Region workshop explores Destination Area and Beyond Boundaries initiatives

Virginia Tech wanted real-world feedback about its Destination Area and Beyond Boundaries initiatives. It got it on Thursday.

More than 140 people, including agency and industry leaders and Virginia Tech faculty, gathered at the Hilton in Arlington, Virginia, to discuss the university's plan for continuous innovation.

Comments ensued.

The "Virginia Tech as a sensor" concept emerged from a brief description of the Data and Decision Sciences destination area, presented by Sallie Keller, director of the Biocomplexity Institute's Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory.

The idea expands on Virginia Tech's capability of collecting and making sense of data, adding value by liberating data and returning insight to overloaded offices and agencies that may be working with problems of an aging population, childhood obesity, or precision agriculture, for examples.

Destination areas, the "sweet spots" where disciplines talk and gather in places that raise Virginia Tech above other universities, will be outlined in more detail at noon Monday at a town hall meeting led by Provost Thanassis Rikakis at Squires Student Center's Commonwealth Ballroom.

Also overheard during the NCR feedback:

- "Jobs are changing faster than degrees are changing."
- "The case for change right now is greater than it has ever been."
- "You need to solve complex problems once with the best thinking."
- "You have to look at collaborative ways to make international experiences happen."
- "Excellence emerges from what people are doing."
- "We can't use yesterday's solutions to solve problems of today and tomorrow."
- "Connect strongly with the real world."

The exercise was important to Steve McKnight, vice president of the National Capital Region and organizer of Thursday's workshop.

The idea of a VT-shaped student builds on the T-student concept, which combines a pillar of disciplinary depth with a broad stroke of interdisciplinary talent, and overlays it with a "V" representing Tech's Ut Prosim and land-grant missions to drive purpose-driven engagement. In addition, the Beyond Boundaries process, which looks at what Virginia Tech could become a generation from now, also challenged the group.

An outside-looking-in perspective was important to Lynne Doughtie, chairman and chief executive officer of KPMG LLP and Martin Dunn, the associate provost for research at the Singapore University for Technology and Design. Both were members of the Beyond Boundaries panel, which also included Clough, Rikakis, Business-Higher Education Forum Chief Executive Officer Brian Fitzgerald, and Virginia Tech

President Tim Sands.

Sands ended the day with a thought to ponder, challenging the university community to reframe how they think about what they do on a daily basis.

Be a part of National Walking Day

Employees and students are invited to join Hokie Wellness in celebrating the American Heart Association's National Walking Day on Wednesday, April 6. It is a day to challenge all Hokies to take a step to a healthier lifestyle.

Being physically active is important for maintaining overall health. The American Heart Association recommends 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week for adults and 60 minutes per day for children and adolescents. Many individuals don't meet these standards, putting them at greater risk for heart disease, stroke, and other blood vessel diseases. But there is opportunity for change.

On April 6, join millions of Americans as they pledge to live a healthier lifestyle and get physically active.

To take part in the celebration:

- Join Hokie Wellness on a 30-minute walk around campus on Wednesday, April 6. Meet at the front steps of Burruss Hall at 12:15 p.m.
 - Show support and wear sneakers to school or work on April 6.
 - Start a habit of walking daily at school, work, or home.
 - Visit StartWalkingNow.org and use the American Heart Association's free tips, tools, and trackers to stay motivated.
- For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu, or 540-231-8878 (employees), or 540-231-2233 (students).

Register to attend program on Disability in the Media

A program on Disability in the Media will offer an engaging, informative and entertaining discussion of how disability is portrayed in contemporary media. The program, which will be facilitated by Donna G. Smith, a counselor for Services for Students with Disabilities, will include video clips and discussion.

The event is at 3 p.m. April 19 in Commonwealth Ballroom at Squires Student Center. More details and registration can be found at www.ssd.vt.edu.

For more information, contact Robyn Hudson at 540-231-3788.

Upcoming workshop helps employees find ways to balance work and life

Finding balance between work and life can be challenging, but is vital to overall happiness and job satisfaction.

On April 14, Hokie Wellness will host a work-life harmony session from 12-1 p.m. at North End Center (room 2200). Attendees will learn strategies and tips to help find harmony in

their lives and receive a brief introduction to mindfulness.

Registration is required. To register, visit www.training.vt.edu, click "view by alpha" and search for "Spring Wellness Series 2016: Say Hello to Sanity: Achieving Work-Life Harmony." This session is part of the Hokie Wellness Spring Wellness series, sponsored by Carilion Clinic and the Department of Human Resources.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

Learn the basics of nutrition at upcoming workshop

Not sure what to eat to say healthy? Unsure of how much to eat? Learn the basics of nutrition at the Nutrition 101 session on April 20 from 12–1 p.m. at Newman Library (multi-purpose room).

At the session hosted by Hokie Wellness, attendees will learn about balanced eating, correct portion sizes, label reading, and making healthy food choices.

Registration is required. To register, visit www.training.vt.edu, click "view by alpha" and search for "Spring Wellness Series 2016: Nutrition 101." This session is part of the Hokie Wellness Spring Wellness series, sponsored by Carilion Clinic and the Department of Human Resources.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

Nominations open for Excellence in Access Awards

Help Services for Students with Disabilities recognize and thank those who go beyond compliance with procedures, and who go the extra mile to make life on campus more accessible and equitable. Nominations are open to faculty, staff, or students who promote access and inclusion on campus for students with disabilities.

To make a nomination, visit <https://survey.vt.edu/survey/entry.jsp?id=1456945605884>.

For more information, visit www.ssd.vt.edu or contact Robyn Hudson at 540-231-3788.

Virginia Tech Rescue Squad recognized as one of best in country

From a hotel room at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel in Pennsylvania, 15 members of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad put their skills to the test on simulated patients in front of spectators who were judging every move they made.

The results supported what the Virginia Tech community already knows. The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad is among the best in the nation.

The squad performed exceptionally well at the 23rd annual National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation conference, receiving awards and recognition for the following:

- 1st place, Basic Life Support Skills Competition
- 1st place, Mass Casualty Incident Skills Competition
- 1st place, Striving for Excellence Award
- 2nd place, the Clinch River in southwest Virginia Skills Competition
- 2nd place, Emergency Medical Services Video of the Year

When they were not competing in drills, members of the squad, who are all full-time undergraduate students at Virginia Tech, participated in lectures, roundtable discussions and panel interviews about pre-hospital medical care, trauma, disaster preparedness, emergency management, and leadership education.

Over 1,200 representatives of campus-based EMS organizations from over 110 colleges and universities across the U.S., Canada and Jamaica attended the 23rd Anniversary Conference.

Eyestone also presented a workshop on sustainability in emergency medical services.

This is the ninth consecutive year that members of the rescue squad have attended the conference.

The Virginia Tech Rescue Squad has served the university community since 1969 and is the oldest collegiate rescue squad in Virginia and the second oldest in the nation. The squad has 40 student members who perform the same functions of a municipal rescue squad and handle about 1,200 calls per year.

National Weather Service renews Virginia Tech as StormReady University

Virginia Tech has once again been designated a StormReady University by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service.

The StormReady program helps communities develop plans to handle severe weather and flooding threats. It provides communities with advice from a partnership between local National Weather Service forecast offices and state and local emergency managers.

In 2010, Virginia Tech became the first college or university in Virginia to receive the StormReady designation. Since then, the university has completed the renewal process twice.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the community;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;
- Promote the importance of readiness through community seminars
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

The StormReady recognition will be in effect through February 2019, at which point the university will go through the renewal process once again.

Juan Espinoza appointed to Virginia Latino Advisory Board

Juan P. Espinoza, associate director in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and director of diversity and access initiatives for Enrollment and Degree Management, has been appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB).

Established in 2003, the VLAB provides recommendations related to the growing Latino community in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In addition to his current role at the university, as a member of VLAB Espinoza is tasked with advising the governor on issues and advocacy opportunities for Latino constituents of Virginia.

Espinoza is also president of the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network. Virginia Tech will host the 2016 Hispanic College Institute, started in 2012 by the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network, from Aug. 1-4.

Prior to joining Virginia Tech in 2007, Espinoza was assistant director of admissions at Radford University.

He received bachelor degrees in political science and public and urban affairs from Virginia Tech. He received a master's degree in corporate and professional communication from Radford University.

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.