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Job applicants and employees invited to disclose disability and protected veteran status

In accordance with new federal legislation, individuals applying for a job at Virginia Tech will now be asked to voluntarily disclose whether they are an individual with a disability and/or as a protected veteran at the same time they are asked to identify their race/ethnicity and gender. Current employees will be surveyed periodically and reminded to update this information in Hokie Spa.

The fine print:

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced additional rules regarding a federal contractor's affirmative action and nondiscrimination obligations for individuals with disabilities and for protected veterans.

The new Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974 outline specific activities in the areas of recruitment, training, record-keeping and policy dissemination.

For more information contact the Human Resources Service Center: Send an email, start an online chat using the link on the right, or call 540-231-9331.

2014-15 Cultural Connections Directory now available

The 2014-15 Cultural Connections Directory, produced by the Office of Equity and Access in the Department of Human Resources, is now available online at www.hr.vt.edu/oea/affirmative-action-employment-equity/faculty-search-resources/documents/clutural-connections-directory.pdf.

The Cultural Connections Directory serves as a tool to help all members of the community feel at home by providing a list of businesses, churches, and other organizations in the New River Valley and Roanoke, Virginia, that are owned or primarily patronized by Blacks/African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and Asians.

For more information, contact the Department of Human Resources at 540-231-9331.

VT Alerts test Aug. 28

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts system Thursday, Aug. 28 on the Blacksburg campus as well as university facilities located in six regions across Virginia. The test will occur sometime between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

If you registered anyone other than yourself to receive these alert notifications via phone, text message, or email, please inform that person of the upcoming test.

For more information, contact the Office of Emergency Management at 540-231-2438.

VRS member benefit profiles available online

Employees who are enrolled in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) can log into their myVRS account to view their profile at www.varetire.org/myVRS.

The Member Benefit Profile provides important information about your retirement and serves as a tool to help map out your path to retirement.

To view your Member Benefit Profile, visit the Virginia Retirement System website at www.varetire.org/myVRS to log in or create a new secure online account.

For more information, contact the Department of Human Resources at 540-231-9331.

Parking and transportation information for football games

On the day before every Saturday home football game the following lots and roads will be restricted to no parking after 5 p.m. and ALL vehicles must be removed from these lots and roads by 10 p.m. that night or be subject to towing:

- Litton-Reaves/Wallace Lots (located off Washington St. and Duck Pond Dr.)
- Coliseum Lot (located off Washington St. and Spring Rd.)
- Jamerson Lot (behind the Jamerson Center)
- Stadium Lot (F/S area)
- Track/Field House Lot (on Spring Rd.)
- Vet-Medicine Lot (north-side only)
- Health and Safety Lot (located off Tech Center Dr.)
- Food Sciences Lot
- Maintenance Lot (located off Southgate Dr.)
- Engel/Cheatham Lot
- Price Hall Lot
- Smithfield Lot (located off Smithfield Rd.)
- Architecture Annex-Media Lot
- Lower Stanger Lot
- Rec Field Lot (off Research Center Dr.)
- Wright House Lot
- Hahn Lot
- Derring Lot (large lot that's parallel to Perry St.)
- Duck Pond Drive Lot (the Cage) only the commuter/graduate interior section at the south end of the lot near Vet Med
- Spring Road
- Duck Pond - Overflow Lot (located off Oak Lane)
- Perry Street Lot # 3
- Basketball Practice Facility and Extension lot
- VTES/ University Library Storage Facility lots.

All resident student vehicles must be removed from the Stadium, and the Chicken Hill parking lots by 10 p.m. on the day before the game, or be subject to towing. In addition, Commuter, Graduate and resident student vehicles that are parked along the outside perimeter of the Duck Pond Road Lot (the Cage) must be relocated by 5 p.m. on the day before the game, or be subject to towing. Resident students can park in one of the following areas:

-- Resident Section of Duck Pond Drive Lot (the Cage) interior spaces only (perimeter of the lot is reserved for RV vehicles).

-- Prices Fork Lots 6

-- Perry Street Garage (Levels 2 through 5) Additionally, ALL vehicles must be removed from these lots and roads by 10 p.m. on the Friday before the game, or be subject to towing:

-- West Stadium Lot (small lot adjacent to the stadium)

-- Washington Street (parallel spaces from W. Campus Dr. to Kent St.) Vehicles must be removed from these lots and roads, or are subject to being towed.

For more parking information, contact Parking and Transportation at 540-231-3200.

Learn more about new optional benefit offered to help employees with legal expenses

Legal Resources is a new optional benefit being offered to eligible Virginia Tech employees that protects employees, spouses, and dependent children (up to age 19 or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student) from paying the high cost of attorney fees associated with everyday life events. The plan offers comprehensive legal coverage on a broad range of services for \$16.50 per month via payroll deduction (\$8.25 per pay period). Legal Resources covers 100 percent of the attorney fees for fully covered legal services. Additional covered services are provided at a 25 percent discount under the expanded coverage benefit. This includes pre-existing legal matters and any legal need not fully covered or listed under exclusions. Parents of policy holders are also eligible for discounts on legal services.

Current employees who wish to enroll must do so during the open enrollment period, from Aug. 15 - Sept. 15. The plan will be effective Oct. 1. New employees have 30 days from the date of hire to enroll in the plan. Changes in coverage may only be made during open enrollment each year.

For more information contact the Department of Human Resources at 540-231-9331.

Employees have access to free mammograms

Hokie Wellness wants all Virginia Tech employees to understand the importance of mammograms and early detection in the fight against breast cancer.

Women age 40 and older should have a screening mammogram every year and should continue to do so for as long as they are in good health.

Employees with Virginia Tech benefits

Employees with benefits are entitled to free annual mammograms. The free screening may be done at the following clinics:

-- Carilion Clinic, Family Medicine – Blacksburg, 901

Plantation Rd., Blacksburg, Va. 24060, 540-951-0352

-- Carilion New River Valley Medical Center, 2900 Tyler

Rd., Christiansburg, Va. 24073, 540-731-2526

-- Lewis Gale Hospital, Montgomery County, 813 Davis

St., Blacksburg, Va. 24060, 540-443-9919

-- Lewis Gale Imaging Center, Daleville, 65 Shenandoah

Ave., Daleville, Va. 24083, 540-776-4983

Employees without Virginia Tech benefits

At Virginia Tech, employees without benefits may be entitled to free mammograms and pap smears, follow-up testing and treatment if needed. For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-1228.

Early detection tests for breast cancer saves lives. Please don't wait another minute. Call to schedule your screening appointment now.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-1228.

Stay safe outdoors

There is a reason why Outside Magazine ranked Blacksburg as a top-10 "dream town" for outdoors enthusiasts: rugged and green, it offers a wide variety of outdoor activities for community members to enjoy. From hiking and camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains to canoeing, kayaking, and tubing on the New River, it is important to approach these activities with safety in mind.

General safety tips while hiking, camping, or enjoying an outdoor activity:

-- Before venturing out, make an itinerary and give a copy to someone who is not going with you. Let them know what you are doing, where you plan to be, and when you should be expected back.

-- Check the weather beforehand. If inclement weather is expected, take appropriate clothing for the conditions. If conditions are severe, consider postponing your activity.

-- Take some basic supplies with you: a first aid kit, sufficient food, and water – bring more than you may need in case you are out longer than originally expected.

-- Carry a compass and map and/or a GPS.

-- Use the buddy system: take a friend with you.

-- If it is hunting season, wear blaze orange to increase your visibility and to help distinguish you from a targeted animal. If you are taking your pet with you, be sure to tie a blaze orange bandana or other clothing item around its collar.

If you encounter a wild animal:

-- If you happen upon a wild animal unexpectedly, remain calm and do not run away. Many animals chase prey that runs. Instead, back away slowly without turning your back on the animal.

-- Never feed wild animals. It can result in personal injury and can inhibit the animal's ability to survive without the aid of humans.

-- Do not get closer. The easiest way to stay safe around wild animals is to not get near them at all. If possible, keep a safe distance and use binoculars to observe.

-- Seek immediate medical attention if you are bitten or attacked by any animal.

For more information on outdoor safety, contact the Virginia Tech Office of Emergency Management at 540-231-2438 or the Virginia Tech Police Department at 540-231-6411.

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