

## VT Alerts test scheduled for Feb. 21 at all six Virginia Tech regions, locations

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts ([www.alerts.vt.edu](http://www.alerts.vt.edu)) system Tuesday, Feb. 21, on the Blacksburg campus as well as university facilities located in six regions across Virginia.

The test will occur between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

VT Alerts is Virginia Tech's emergency notification system. When a situation arises in which the university determines that immediate action is required on the part of students, employees, and others, a VT Alert is issued to the impacted region(s).

In addition to Blacksburg, VT Alert regions also include Abingdon, Danville, Hampton Roads, National Capital Region, Richmond, and Roanoke.

Individuals with a Virginia Tech email address will automatically receive an email each time a VT Alert is sent out.

The alerts are also shared via the Virginia Tech homepage; the university status page; the weather/emergency hotline (540-231-6668); Twitter; digital display boards in classrooms and other common meeting locations and outdoor sirens with voice enunciators on the Blacksburg campus only; and text messages, voice messages, and to non-vt.edu email accounts by subscription.

### Students and employees

Virginia Tech strongly recommends that all students and employees:

- Sign up at [www.alerts.vt.edu](http://www.alerts.vt.edu) to receive VT Alerts through phone calls, text messages, or emails to non-vt.edu accounts
- Subscribe to @VTAlerts through Twitter
- Download a program at [www.alerts.vt.edu](http://www.alerts.vt.edu) to receive VT Alerts through desktop notifications

Without taking any action, students and employees will receive emergency notifications via some or all of the following channels:

- Virginia Tech homepage ([www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu))
- The university status page (<http://vt.edu/status.html>)
- Emails sent to all vt.edu accounts
- The university's official university social media channels
- Twitter: [https://twitter.com/virginia\\_tech](https://twitter.com/virginia_tech)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/virginiatech](http://www.facebook.com/virginiatech)
- The weather/emergency hotline (540-231-6668) on the Blacksburg campus
- Electronic message boards in classrooms and other common meeting locations on the Blacksburg campus
- Outdoor sirens with voice enunciators on the Blacksburg campus

### Parents and community members

Parents and community members who would like to receive emergency notifications from Virginia Tech are invited to:

- Subscribe to @VTAlerts through Twitter
- Download the desktop alerts software
- Monitor the university homepage and university status page
- Monitor the university's official university social media channels (Twitter and Facebook).

At this time, individuals without a Virginia Tech PID are not eligible to receive VT Alerts. Allowing parents and community members to subscribe has the potential to more than triple the number of subscribers, which could lengthen the time it takes for

the system to deliver an alert to students and employees on campus.

Those who have subscribed but do not receive a phone alert during the test should first log in to verify that their record is correct and then contact 4Help at 540-231-HELP (4357).

In the event of an actual emergency, individuals must be aware of their surroundings and take immediate responsibility for their personal safety and security. Initial VT Alerts messages will provide basic information on the nature and location of the emergency, as well as instructions for what to do. Subsequent VT Alerts messages or first responders will provide additional instructions and updates about the incident until the all clear is given. Detailed information, when available, will be posted to the university homepage and the university status page.

Visit [www.alerts.vt.edu](http://www.alerts.vt.edu) for more information or to sign up.

## Virginia Tech update on Prices Fork Research Station fire

A Virginia Tech research facility, part of the Prices Fork Research Station located at 4076 Prices Fork Road and approximately four miles from the main Blacksburg campus, was destroyed by fire Sunday evening.

According to Virginia Tech Police, the fire was reported to 911 at 8:51 p.m. Sunday and was 95 percent contained by 10:30 p.m. The Blacksburg Fire Department and Longshop McCoy Fire Department responded to the call.

No one was hurt in the fire.

The building burned was the construction and fabrication shop for Virginia Tech's FutureHAUS, a multidisciplinary research project involving students, faculty, and industry partners that produced an innovative prototype that defined the future of smart, sustainable housing.

The FutureHAUS prototype, as well as building material and tools used on the project, were lost in the fire.

The project showcased integrated advanced technologies, energy efficient design, and sustainable construction. In January, the FutureHAUS team exhibited its work at an international trade show in Florida. See related stories:

-- Virginia Tech debuts the bedroom and home office of FutureHAUS at <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2017/01/CAUS-FutureHAUS.html>

-- Virginia Tech FutureHAUS wows crowds at KBIS at <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2017/01/CAUS-FutureHAUS-KBIS.html>

Virginia Tech is working with the FutureHAUS group, industry partners, and leadership in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies and the College of Engineering to find short and long term solutions for the continuous development of this important project.

A preliminary estimate of the value of the research building, the FutureHAUS project, and equipment and supplies lost in the fire is between \$800,000 and \$1.3 million.

The research building lost in the fire was built in three phases starting in 1960.

The Prices Fork Research Station includes several other

research buildings with a wide range of research projects. No other buildings or research projects appear to have been affected by the fire.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## Learn about planning for retirement and buying a house in upcoming Financial Wellness Series sessions

Employees are invited to find ways to improve their financial wellness at the Hokie Wellness Financial Wellness Series. The Financial Wellness Series continues this semester with two new sessions.

### Retirement Planning for the Young Professional (part two)

-- Feb. 28 from 12:30-1:30 p.m., North End Center, room 2200

-- This session is also available via WebEx.

-- In the first session of Retirement Planning for the Young Professional held last fall, Alex White, an advanced instructor in the Department of Dairy Science, discussed the basics of how to start planning for retirement. In this session, participants will learn more about how to choose investments and how much to invest. White will also discuss how powerful the 403(b) is and will provide in-depth information about IRAs.

### Home Buying: No Down Payment? No Problem!

-- March 22 from 12-1 p.m., North End Center, room 2200

-- Buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions a person can make and choosing the right mortgage product can be difficult with the variety of options available. In this session, staff from Community Housing Partners Homeownership will discuss the various loan products available in the New River Valley, including special financing that requires little to no down payment. Participants will learn about the advantages and disadvantages of each product and receive tips on how to prepare a credit report for a loan application.

Registration is required for each program, including WebEx sessions. To register, visit [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu), click "view by alpha", and search for the class name mentioned above.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

## G. Don Taylor to become vice provost for learning systems innovation and effectiveness

G. Don Taylor, Charles O. Gordon Professor of Industrial and Systems Engineering and interim dean of the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, will become the university's first vice provost for learning systems innovation and effectiveness upon the completion of his role as interim dean July 31.

Working collaboratively with the colleges and other university organizations, Taylor will oversee efforts to connect undergraduate and graduate student success with external organizations and employers and develop new and innovative ways to deliver curriculum across all university units.

A member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 2004, Taylor's scholarship has focused on the simulation and optimization of complex systems and the logistics of material flow and freight transportation.

While Taylor was head of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering from 2004 to 2016, the department twice received a University Exemplary Department Award; in 2007 for the development and execution of innovative and effective approaches to advising its undergraduate and graduate students and again in 2012 for effectively linking assessment with instruction in order to improve student learning.

He is a Fellow and president emeritus of the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE). He chairs the board of IISE Solutions Inc. and is a Fellow of the World Academy of Productivity Science.

Taylor is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education,

Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, and the International Council on Systems Engineering.

Before coming to Virginia Tech, Taylor held the Mary Lee and George F. Duthie Endowed Chair in Engineering Logistics and was the director of the Center for Engineering Logistics and Distribution at Kentucky's University of Louisville.

He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Ph.D. in industrial engineering and operations research from the University of Massachusetts.

## Beth Pline named senior director in integration process

Elizabeth R. "Beth" Pline, who has been serving as lead project director for the integration of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine into Virginia Tech, has been named senior director of administration and integration.

In her new position, Pline assumes responsibility for the medical school's human resources, facilities, and other administrative functions to foster a smooth transition from Carilion Clinic to Virginia Tech.

The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine is on track to become Virginia Tech's ninth college in July 2018. Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors voted on August 29, 2016, to begin a process to integrate the medical school, which is currently independent, into the university.

Pline has extensive experience in project management, team organization, and fiscal and business leadership. Since 2014, Pline has served in several capacities at the medical school, including project manager for integration and education and faculty development manager.

Before joining the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Pline was executive director of the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra for seven years. She also had her own consulting service for 12 years, was director of patient services at Planned Parenthood of the Blue Ridge and chief operating officer of the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council. Pline started her career as an adolescent counselor and therapist, having received a bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and a master's of social work from the University of Houston.

## Lactation rooms available across campus for nursing moms

Virginia Tech is proud to support nursing moms with a network of lactation rooms located across the Blacksburg campus. The rooms are available to employees and students, as well as visitors.

New mothers returning to work after the birth of their child can request lactation support for up to a year. For the safety and security of the mothers, the lactation rooms, which are managed by Hokie Wellness, are kept locked at all times.

Registration is required prior to using the rooms and to obtain access. Additional information, including guidelines, registration, and room locations, is available at [http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/Employees/resources/Lactation\\_Rooms.html](http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/Employees/resources/Lactation_Rooms.html).

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

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