

# NEWS & INFORMATION

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2016 -- Volume 12, Number 28



## Research Center Drive to be closed Feb. 18-22

Research Center Drive (Tech Center Drive/SR 314) will be closed Thursday Feb. 18 through Monday Feb. 22 while Town of Blacksburg crews work to install a new water line. Detour signs will be in place. The closure will be between Pratt Drive and Kraft Drive. If crews encounter difficulty drilling, the road may be closed for more than a week longer than is anticipated.

For more information, contact Chris Scaggs with the Town of Blacksburg Department of Public Works at 540-961-1144.

## Drillfield paths opinion poll to reopen Feb. 22-March 4

Beginning Monday, Feb. 22, members of the Virginia Tech community are invited to share their opinions about 12 different materials being tested on two paths on the Drillfield.

The materials are being considered for permanent installation in the future. Two of the original 14 materials being tested did not hold up well and have been removed from consideration. The poll will remain open through March 4. Community members will also be asked to provide feedback again in the spring.

A numbered map and photos of the test materials are available on the Drillfield Paths website at [www.vt.edu/drillfield-paths](http://www.vt.edu/drillfield-paths).

Feedback can be shared via Twitter (@drillfieldpaths) or online at [www.vt.edu/drillfield-paths](http://www.vt.edu/drillfield-paths).

For more information, contact Jack Rosenberger at [rosenb@vt.edu](mailto:rosenb@vt.edu) or 540-231-1844.

## Southgate Interchange Project: Major detour scheduled for summer 2016

Traffic detours will be in place at the intersection of Southgate Drive and Duck Pond Drive from May 16 to August 12. Drivers will be redirected to avoid the construction of the intersection's new roundabout.

Drivers should expect delays and are encouraged to use alternate routes, such as Research Center Drive and West Campus Drive.

## Online chat tool provides employees with resource for environmental health and safety questions

Environmental Health and Safety has launched a new online chat feature that allows employees to interact directly with the course instructors during the work day, improving both efficiency and productivity for employees/students. The chat function is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for non-Scholar classes.

Employees/students can post questions or start discussions and receive quick responses via the chat feature.

This feature will also increase EHS' flexibility in offering certain compliance training programs that require direct access to an instructor.

Environmental Health and Safety offers hundreds of in-person and online training courses each year to about 20,000 employees who work with lab equipment and chemicals. Course topics range from radiation safety to biological safety and farm safety. University Policy 1005: Health and Safety Policy ([www.policies.vt.edu/1005.pdf](http://www.policies.vt.edu/1005.pdf)) requires that departments, supervisors, and employees/students participate in health and safety training.

For more information, contact Environmental Health and Safety at 540-231-3600.

## Hokie Fit Challenge motivates employees and students to workout

Looking for some extra motivation to exercise this year? Recreational Sports and Hokie Wellness encourage employees and students to participate in the Hokie Fit Challenge sponsored by Coca-Cola. All participants who track their workouts have a chance to win prizes including the grand prize of a \$500 gift card.

Prizes are awarded based on the number of workouts completed and while supplies last:

- Receive an exercise towel for 15 workouts.
- Receive a Hokie Fit Challenge t-shirt for 25 workouts.
- Be entered into a drawing for one of six Fitbits for 30 workouts.
- All participants are entered into a drawing for a \$500 gift card.

Registration opens Feb. 12. Participants can register by downloading the Go-U Coca-Cola mobile app at <http://stg.pocketapp.co.uk/gou/vt/index.html>.

Workouts can be tracked in the U-Move section. Reward notifications will appear on the device after completing 15 workouts and will be emailed after completing 25 and 30 workouts.

Participants who would like to track workouts on paper can register online at [https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9FUTvUY8mBiflxL](https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9FUTvUY8mBiflxL).

The challenge ends April 1.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-9331.

## Nominations now being accepted for annual Administrative Services customer service award

The Division of Administrative Services is the largest senior management area at Virginia Tech. More than 800 employees in the division are responsible for the health, safety, and well-being of the university's 13,000 employees, 31,000 students, and about 10,000 visitors each year. Additionally, division



employees maintain more than 125 building, 2,600 acres of property, and an airport.

The division's annual Customer Service Recognition Program recognizes employees in the division who exemplify the university's motto, *Ut Prosim (That I May Serve)* in their day-to-day work providing exceptional **customer** service to the campus community. Individuals and teams (with up to 12 members) may be nominated.

To be eligible, nominees must:

- have at least 12 months of service working in the Division of Administrative Services, **and**
- maintain an acceptable level of performance in all functions of their positions and consistently exhibit excellent customer service, **and**
- seek to improve service in creative/highly responsive ways, or
- take initiative beyond the normal scope of service, or
- proactively resolve or contribute to the resolution of long-standing problems that directly benefit customers.

Employees who have a title of director or above are not eligible.

Learn more about the award, including eligibility information, and nominate an employee on the Customer Service Recognition Program webpage at [www.vpas.vt.edu/awards/index.html](http://www.vpas.vt.edu/awards/index.html).

Nominations are due by 5 p.m. March 25 via the online nomination form.

For more information, send an email to [vpas@vt.edu](mailto:vpas@vt.edu).

## Staff Senate seeking interested staff for representation on council, commissions, and committees

The Staff Senate ([www.staffsenate.vt.edu](http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu)) is currently seeking wage and salaried (non-faculty and non-student) employees to serve as staff representatives in the university governance system. Nominations will be accepted by Jon Wooge until March 15.

Opportunities are available on the following council, commissions, and committees:

### University Council

- Two seats- any staff
- [www.governance.vt.edu](http://www.governance.vt.edu)

### Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity

- One seat- staff senator or senate alternate
- [www.governance.vt.edu/comeod/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/comeod/index.html)

### Commission on Research

- One seat- staff senator or senate alternate
- [www.governance.vt.edu/comcor/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/comcor/index.html)

### Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs

- Academic area rep: one seat any staff from an academic area
- Staff Senate rep: one seat- staff senator or senate alternate
- Administrative area rep: one seat- any staff from an administrative area

--[www.governance.vt.edu/comccsa/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/comccsa/index.html)

### Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

- One seat- staff senator or senate alternate
- [www.governance.vt.edu/comecus/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/comecus/index.html)

### Academic Support Committee

- One seat- any staff
- [www.governance.vt.edu/cmtas/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/cmtas/index.html)

### Employee Benefits Committee

- Two seats- staff senator or senate alternate
- [www.governance.vt.edu/cmteb/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/cmteb/index.html)

### Energy and Sustainability Committee

- Two seats- staff senator or senate alternate
- [www.governance.vt.edu/cmtenergy/index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/cmtenergy/index.html)

### Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

- One seat- any staff
- [www.governance.vt.edu/cmtucc/Index.html](http://www.governance.vt.edu/cmtucc/Index.html)

Vacancies will be filled by election (held in Staff Senate) in early April. Terms are three years in duration, beginning July 1. Individuals who indicate interest will be contacted with more information.

For more information, contact Jon Wooge at [jwooge@vt.edu](mailto:jwooge@vt.edu) or 540-731-0589.

## Don Taylor to be interim dean of College of Engineering

G. Don Taylor, Charles O. Gordon Professor and head of the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech, has been named interim dean of the College of Engineering.

Taylor will become a member of the leadership transition team in the college this month and will serve as interim dean when Dean Richard Benson departs for his new position as president of University of Texas at Dallas.

Rikakis will chair the search for the next dean. Members of the search committee and other information related to the process will be published in Virginia Tech News later this semester. The anticipated start date for the new dean will be July 1, 2017. A member of the Virginia Tech faculty since 2004, Taylor's research focuses on the simulation and optimization of complex systems and the logistics of material flow and freight transportation. He has been principal or co-principal investigator on more than 75 externally-funded projects and has partnered with some 60 different companies. He has written more than 200 technical publications, including 10 edited books.

Twice under Taylor's leadership, the Grado department 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 Engineers (IIE). He chairs the board of IIE 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.

## Celebrate Black History Month throughout February

The month of February is full of celebrations put on by both student organizations and Virginia Tech departments honoring Black History Month. All scheduled events are featured on the university calendar at [www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php](http://www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php).

*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.