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## News and Updates from the Destination Areas



**Transdisciplinary curricular offerings are facilitating the development of complex problem solving skills among undergraduates and graduate students:**

The Destination Areas have launched **four** [Pathway Minors](#) to date: [Data and Decisions](#), [Materials in Society](#), [Integrated Security](#), and [Innovation](#).

Courses provide opportunities for students to work together in transdisciplinary teams and to learn, understand, and develop ways of addressing complex problems from many different perspectives. **A selection of transdisciplinary courses are also highlighted each semester on the [Destination Area course web page](#).**

To help build opportunities for student engagement with real world problems **faculty can apply for funding to support collaboration with local employers for project based work opportunities.** Applications were shared at the February 3rd [GO Virginia Faculty Networking and Student Internship Fair](#). Application forms can be obtained by emailing, [LSIE@vt.edu](mailto:LSIE@vt.edu)

**Are you interested in designing a course or having the opportunity to teach in a transdisciplinary context? Proposals are due March 1st for the [Transdisciplinary Faculty Fellows Program](#).**



**Faculty and students involved in a number of Destination Areas have been highlighted in the news as they address complex problems related to addiction, infectious disease, security, climate change, and energy storage:**

- [Scientists explore new method to help people with alcohol use disorder](#)
- [Appian co-founder applauds analytics and security curriculum](#)
- [Mosquitoes are drawn to flowers as much as people - and now scientists know why](#)
- [Virginia Tech's Luis Escobar contributes to international report on health and climate change](#)
- [Chemists get boost from Destination Area support to advance battery materials research](#)
- [Dani Chowen helps students reach their potential through creative technologies](#)
- [Virginia Tech launches the Center for Coastal Studies to address complex issues in the coastal zone](#)

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### **Upcoming Events:**

**On March 26th VT will host the 4VA [Transdisciplinary Learning: Integrating STEM and Non-STEM Disciplines Conference at the Inn](#).** Sessions will focus on curriculum efforts that are advancing transdisciplinary opportunities to bring STEM and non-STEM students together for experiences that allow for development of complex thinking and hands-on problem solving. **This will be a great opportunity to connect with faculty across the VT community and with colleagues across the state who are working on similar transdisciplinary learning efforts.** The event is open to the university

community and interested faculty and administrators from participating 4VA institutions. [Register by February 24th!](#)

The next **Data and Decisions DDREAM seminar** will be on March 25th from 12:30 - 1:30 in Torgersen 1100. Presenters will include Ali Habibnia, Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Economics, College of Science and Vitali Mindel, Assistant Professor Pamplin College of Business. Contact Megan Hicks to sign up, [hmegan@vt.edu](mailto:hmegan@vt.edu).

The first [+Policy spring seminar in the Policy, Technology and Society series](#), is February 27, 4-5:30 pm at ISCE on the Blacksburg campus, in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area (VTRC-A Room 3-024) and by Zoom (611522895). Entitled ***Markets and Technologies for a Flexible Grid: A Conversation***, the event will include presentations by Dr. Daniel Breslau, Department Chair of Science, Technology and Society, and Dr. Saifur Rahman, Joseph R. Loring Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and founder of the Advanced Research Institute at Virginia Tech, followed by discussion. The goal of the series is to bring together experts from different disciplines around important policy topics to foster conversation and intellectual exchange with real-world application. Our second seminar, *Local to Global: A Conversation about Food Policy*, featuring Dr. Vivica Kraak, Human Foods, Nutrition and Exercise and Dr. Kim Niewolny, Agricultural, Leadership and Community Education, will be March 31, 2-3:30 pm, location TBA. Contact Isabel Bradburn for more information [isbrad@vt.edu](mailto:isbrad@vt.edu)

Intelligent Infrastructure and Human Centered Communities has a regular newsletter that you can sign up for on the [IIHCC website](#). It features events, faculty involved in the IIHCC community, and upcoming seed funding deadlines.



More news and information about events can be found on the [Destination Area](#) website.

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**Contact with questions:**

LSIE@vt.edu

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