

Employees encouraged to serve the community through annual Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

The following is an open letter to Virginia Tech employees from Kelly Oaks, assistant vice president for Equity and Accessibility. Oaks is the honorary chair of the 2017 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign.

Dear colleagues,

I am honored and humbled to have been asked to serve as this year's honorary chair for the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC).

We all are very proud of the university's motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Giving to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign is an excellent way for us all to embody the Virginia Tech motto by serving others.

With more than 1,000 charities to choose from, employees can easily find one that fits their own sense of service. Great satisfaction can be gleaned from knowing that, although you might not have been able to be there with them personally, your financial support to the charity or charities of your choice ensured that others can continue to serve as well.

Supporting a charity through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign is very easy. Employees can review the list of approved charities online (see the link below), find one or more that fits them best, and donate. Tax-deductible gifts can be made online through payroll deduction or via a paper pledge form.

Most importantly, each and every gift counts – there is no such thing as a small gift. When a gift truly comes from the heart, it knows no size. **If each employee donates, we will easily exceed our goal of \$350,000.**

The 2017 campaign will run through Dec. 20. Please consider joining me and all other Hokies in fulfilling our motto.

Dr. Kelly D. Oaks
Honorary Chair, 2017 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign
Assistant Vice President for Equity and Accessibility

For more information and a list of charities you can give to, visit www.cvc.hr.vt.edu.

Holiday and winter closing schedule

Please visit the Holiday and Winter Closing Schedule page at www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday-closing-schedule to view upcoming holidays and the winter closing schedule.

Employees will need to use three leave days for the 2017 Winter Closing period.

Hokie Wellness News

Save the date for 2018 Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair

As part of the university's commitment to maintaining healthy lifestyles, all employees are encouraged to start the year off right by attending the 2018 Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair on **Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McComas Hall**. The event is free and employees are encouraged to bring their Hokie Passport to check-in.

The fair's schedule will include health, wellness and benefits exhibitors; yoga and HIIT classes; battleship challenge; interactive activities; flu, shingles, TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and pneumonia vaccinations; a bloodmobile (see below for more information); private dental and orthodontic screenings; and much, much more. Visit http://hokiewellness.vt.edu/employees/programs/annual_health_and_benefits_fair.html for more information.

Supervisors of employees are strongly encouraged to allow eligible employees in their respective areas to participate for a minimum of two hours in this year's event. The event is sponsored by Virginia Tech Division of Human Resources, Student Affairs and Carilion Clinic.

Hokie Wellness Coat Drive

Hokie Wellness will hold a coat drive **Wednesday, Dec. 6 through Thursday, Dec. 20**. Adult and children's coats welcomed. Drop-off sites include:

- North End Center, Division of Human Resources Office
- McComas Hall
- The Virginia–Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
- War Memorial Hall

Coats will be given to employees who lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter, and lack the money to buy that clothing. Employees wishing to choose a coat may do so any time during the Health and Benefits Fair.

Register for the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair blood drive

In keeping with the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Hokie Wellness will be hosting an American Red Cross Bloodmobile from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Cassell Coliseum parking lot.

To donate blood, please register online using your smartphone or home computer at www.redcross.org/give-blood. On the American Red Cross website, scroll down until the Jan. 10, Virginia Tech Hokie Wellness drive

appears. Click in the box area, then choose an appointment time. Either sign in or create an account to complete the registration process. If employees do not have a computer or smartphone, contact Hokie Wellness for registration help. Contact information is provided below.

Hokie Wellness to host half-day Koru mindfulness retreat

Hokie Wellness is excited to invite employees and students to a half-day Koru mindfulness and meditation retreat **Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Hillcrest Hall study hall.**

The day will include practice with meditation, yoga, and mind/body skills for relaxation and wellness. The retreat is open to both novices and those with more experience. It is an opportunity to reconnect at a time of year that is often hectic, and to apply skills that can enhance the immune system, concentration, energy, and the ability to enjoy daily life. Please bring a yoga mat to the retreat.

Contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or 540-231-8878 for more information on these activities!

Registration open for Advancing Diversity at Virginia Tech workshop

The 15th annual Advancing Diversity at Virginia Tech workshop will be held on **Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2018, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.** This event is open to members of the university community at no charge.

This year's workshop will include an update on InclusiveVT initiatives, a discussion of the findings of the COACHE survey of faculty work life, and breakout sessions on faculty recruiting, inclusive pedagogy, mentoring, and strategic planning for diversity.

Participants are invited to display posters describing diversity activities on campus. If you would like to display a poster, please register for the workshop and indicate the poster title in the registration.

Please register no later than Dec. 20 at www.advance.vt.edu.

For more information, contact Peggy Layne, assistant provost for faculty development, at playne@vt.edu or 540-231-9948.

Holiday Carolers at The Inn

Cozy up with a complimentary mug of hot cocoa for live entertainment by Blacksburg Master Chorale's own **Ad Hocet on Dec. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m.** and the **Blacksburg High School Madrigal Singers on Dec. 15 from 6 to 8 p.m.** at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. These strolling carolers will ring in the season with Christmas carols and holiday favorites. This event is free to attend.

Faculty/Staff can claim complimentary tickets to select basketball games

Virginia Tech faculty/staff members are able to claim complimentary tickets to select men's and women's basketball home games. Faculty/Staff members must show their Virginia Tech ID at the Cassell Coliseum ticket office to claim tickets. Each Virginia Tech ID warrants two (2) tickets; members may bring up to 4 Virginia Tech IDs. The Cassell ticket office opens two hours prior to game time. Tickets are limited. The basketball games with complimentary admission options:

- Thursday, Dec. 28 – MBB vs. North Carolina A&T (4 p.m. game)
- Sunday, Dec. 31 – WBB vs. Boston College (2 p.m. game)
- Thursday, Jan. 11 – WBB vs. Pitt (7 p.m. game)

Virginia Tech News is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Division 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 540-231-4387.