
Virginia Tech President Tim Sands will deliver State of the University Address this Friday, Sept. 7

Virginia Tech President Tim Sands will deliver his third State of the University Address on Friday, Sept. 7, at 3:30 p.m., in the Moss Arts Center. Doors will open at 3 p.m. in the Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre, located within the Moss Arts Center's Street and Davis Performance Hall at 190 Alumni Mall. A student performance will precede the address.

The event is free and open to the public, and the Virginia Tech community is encouraged to attend. For additional information on the State of the University Address, visit vt.edu/state-of-university.html.

From President Tim Sands: InclusiveVT Week drives the commitment to community, diversity, and excellence

InclusiveVT Week occurs annually the week after Labor Day. It is dedicated to adhering to and promoting the institutional and individual commitment to Ut Prosim (That I May Serve) in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence.

InclusiveVT Week provides a platform for faculty, staff, and students to engage, share ideas, and connect through activities that celebrate our diverse communities and strengthen our inclusive culture. President Sands encourages everyone to participate in one or more events to embrace aspirations for an inclusive university community.

For more information, visit the InclusiveVT Week page at bit.ly/2NkEvuz.

VT Alerts test scheduled for Sept. 13 at all Virginia Tech locations

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts system on Thursday, Sept. 13, between 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

VT Alerts is the university's emergency notification system, and it is used to communicate critical information with the Virginia Tech community in the event of emergency on campus. VT Alerts are issued when there is a need for community members to take immediate protective action, university closures, or during system-wide tests in the fall and spring semesters.

When a VT Alert is sent out, the information is communicated with the community via electronic message boards (Blacksburg only), emails to vt.edu addresses, and social media updates. Individuals may also subscribe to receive the information via a VT Phone Alert, VT Desktop Alert by visiting the VT Alerts website.

All community members should expect to receive duplicate messages. This redundancy is intentional to ensure important information reaches as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time.

For more information, visit bit.ly/2CmGUK7.

Optional benefits open enrollment through Sept. 28

Open enrollment for optional benefits, including Aflac, Legal Resources, and New York Life Insurance is available until Friday, Sept. 28. During open enrollment, employees can enroll in, drop, or change coverage without experiencing a qualifying event.

For more information, visit bit.ly/optional-benefits-open-enrollment.

Virginia Tech Police offers safety tips for riding Uber, Lyft, Hooptie, and taxis

As more and more members of the campus community use ride-sharing services, it is important to take the necessary precautions to safe while traveling in and around campus. Here are some easy safety tips to keep in mind:

- Use only clearly identifiable ride-sharing service vehicles that are called to your location; double-check the license plate number and make and model of the car when your driver arrives.
- Do not get into unmarked taxis/cars. The vehicle should have the company's name and logo clearly displayed.
- Ensure the driver can identify your name when using ride-sharing. When the vehicle arrives, lean in without getting in the car, and ask the driver, "Who are you here for?" Do not get in unless the driver can identify your name.
- Share your trip status with a friend when using ride-sharing. They can track your trip and see your ETA.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially at night.
- Buckle up.

For more information and safety tips from Virginia Tech Police, visit police.vt.edu/safety-security.html.

The Division of Motor Vehicles returns to Virginia Tech

The Division of Motor Vehicles' DMV Connect will return to campus on Monday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., in a DMV bus parked behind Litton Reaves Hall. DMV Connect will offer a variety of services including but not limited to: Address change, driver's license, ID card (adult, child, veteran), vehicle titles, vehicle registrations, handicap parking permit, and hunting and fishing licenses.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or 540-231-8878.

Learn about tax reform and how it affects you with 'Tax Talk'

Join Hokie Wellness and H&R Block for "Tax Talk" on Tuesday, Sept. 11, from noon-1 p.m. at the North End Center, Room 2200. Experts from H&R Block will cover: Preparing for tax filing in January 2019, changes in deductions, W-4 planning, and tax Reform tax rate tables.

Registration is required at <https://bit.ly/2PCLUCX>. For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or 540-231-8878.

Social Security 101 session Friday, Sept. 14

A free workshop will be held at North End Center, Room 2420, from 10 a.m.-noon where you will learn everything you want to know about Social Security. Guest speaker and Social Security representative Jacqueline Weisgarber will answer questions such as:

- When are you eligible to receive retirement benefits?
- How does early retirement affect your benefits?
- Do you qualify for disability, survivor, and spouse benefits?
- How do you get the most from your benefit?
- What is the future of Social Security?
- When should you file for Medicare?

Attendees will also learn how to use their "my Social Security" online account and other online services. Attendees are encouraged to go to socialsecurity.gov/myaccount to create a "my Social Security" account and print out their Social Security Statement before attending the workshop. For employees who may not be able to attend in person, the session will be available via Zoom. (viriniatech.zoom.us/j/269826585, Dial-In: 1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 269 826 585). No registration is required for the workshop.

Virginia Tech received high marks in the Princeton Review's annual college rankings.

The university was featured in the top 20 in six categories:

- No. 2 in "town-gown relations are great."
- No. 3 in "their students love these colleges."
- No. 3 in "best campus food."
- No. 7 in "best quality of life."
- No. 14 in "happiest students."
- No. 17 in "best alumni network."

For more information, visit bit.ly/2PElu3K.

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 540-231-7643.