



**A message from President Tim Sands on the Innovation Campus**

To the Virginia Tech Community,

As we process Tuesday’s news about Amazon coming to Northern Virginia and the exciting announcement of Virginia Tech’s 1 million-square-foot Innovation Campus in Alexandria, I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation to all of you.

This is a great moment for Virginia Tech. Our historic commitment to build a graduate education, research, and innovation campus less than two miles from the new Amazon location was the centerpiece of the higher education proposal that closed the deal.

You made it possible. Your sustained scholarship, leadership, and hard work have elevated our university across the board, including our foundational strengths, the Institutes, the Virginia Tech Carilion Health Science and Technology Campus in Roanoke, and our presence in the National Capital Region. Because of you, Amazon and Northern Virginia were willing to put their faith in Virginia Tech.

This transformational plan will not divert resources or attention away from our Blacksburg and Roanoke campuses. On the contrary, it has the potential to further energize Southwest Virginia. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2z9EmBJ>

**Employees honored for their military service**

In honor of their service, Virginia Tech gives employees who served in the military a small token each year to show gratitude.

This year, approximately 300 employees who had self-identified as military veterans received an invitation to the university’s Veterans Day observance events along with a two-sided challenge coin showing the Virginia Tech logo on one side and the university pylons on the other.

The invitation and gift is hand delivered to employees by members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets the week prior to Veterans Day. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2OENS4N>

**Update on insurance provider and Anthem negotiations**

Schumacher Clinical Partners is working with Anthem and has provided additional guidance based on the questions from employees. Although not in network with Anthem, physicians will accept the amount insurance pays. If Explanation of Benefits (EOB) show non-allowed or non-approved amounts, emergency physicians will accept the amount insurance pays and will only bill for the co-insurance and deductible amounts. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2RHS6eX>

**Save the date for the 2019 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 2019 Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McComas Hall.

The fair’s schedule will include health, wellness, and benefits exhibitors, exercise classes, battleship challenge, interactive activities, flu, TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis), and pneumonia vaccinations, a bloodmobile, and much, much, more. Read More: <https://bit.ly/2z8Zlzh>

**Giving back with 2018 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign**

During the holiday season, we are reminded of the importance of giving back, even if it is in small ways. A great way to do this is to donate to a charity that is near to your heart through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC). As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday and with only a few weeks remaining in the campaign, employees are encouraged to continue donating.

Thanks to generous contributions that our employees have already made, the campaign has raised more than \$190,000 of the university’s \$375,000 goal since the kickoff on Sept. 24. While this is a great accomplishment, there is not much time left to donate, and we still have to raise 49 percent of our goal.

This year’s campaign will run until Dec. 14. No donation is too small, and all donations will help

reach our university goal.

Employees can donate through online payroll deduction, choosing either a one-time deduction or a 24-pay period deduction. To contribute to the campaign, donations can be made through the campaign website. Cash and checks are also accepted; pledge cards are available for those who do not have online access. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2RM3Njl>

## Flu shot reminder: Protect yourself and others this flu season

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu season in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. Virginia Tech encourages all Hokies to act now to protect yourself and others by getting your annual flu vaccine.

State health plan members may get a free flu vaccine at pharmacies participating in their health plan's network.

- COVA Care, COVA HDHP and COVA HealthAware members also may receive flu shots at no cost from network physicians' offices and other participating providers.
- Kaiser Permanente HMO members must go to a participating Kaiser medical center.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2PuwAfi>

## Parking changes in place for Nov.

To accommodate the increased volume of vehicular traffic on campus for the Nov. 17 home football game versus University of Miami, the parking and traffic changes will be in place. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2FIZydo>

## Paid parental leave provides bonding time for families

On Aug. 27, 2018, Virginia Tech announced that it had adopted paid parental leave for salaried employees in faculty and staff positions.

The university was pleased to extend this leave, which was an enhancement to existing leave benefits for both faculty and staff, to employees following the birth, adoption, foster, or custodial placement of a child younger than 18 years of age.

Paid parental leave, which employees must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive, provides up to 320 hours of leave paid at 100 percent of the employee's salary. If both parents work for the university and meet eligibility requirements, each employee shall receive paid parental

leave, which may be taken concurrently, consecutively, or at different times in full day increments.

More information about paid parental leave, including the eligibility form, is available online. If employees have questions, please contact the Leave Team in the Division of Human Resources at 540-231-9331. Read More: <https://bit.ly/2RP80mM>

## CLAHS office of the dean has moved

The Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences has moved to newly renovated headquarters at 200 Stanger Street, in what is now the Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Building.

The building, the oldest Hokie Stone structure on campus, is near Torgersen and Major Williams and across the street from McBryde. The building originally housed the YMCA and more recently was the Performing Arts Building. All phone numbers remain the same.

## Noise amplification alert: Fireworks test on Nov. 16

Virginia Tech Athletics will be working with a new vendor to deploy a fireworks test on Nov. 16 at 8:30 a.m. The surrounding community should be aware of potential noise amplification during the test.

## Rec Sports offers free lessons during Youth Swim Day

Virginia Tech Recreational Sports will be offering free youth swim lessons at the McComas Hall Pool on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 10 a.m. - Noon during the Youth Swim Day event. No university affiliation required to participate in this event so please invite family and friends. There will be limited space available so you must register for one of the allotted time slots. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2JZzdR9>

## Editor Note: Holiday Blackout

The Blue Sheet will not be published Nov. 21 due to the holiday closing.