



## Frank Shushok Jr. named next president of Roanoke College

Frank Shushok Jr., vice president for student affairs at Virginia Tech, has been named the 12th president of Roanoke College. Shushok will succeed Michael C. Maxey, who will retire at the end of the 2021-22 academic year.

The Roanoke College Board of Trustees confirmed Shushok's presidency at a special board meeting held Monday.

"I feel deeply connected to Southwest Virginia and the New River and Roanoke valleys," Shushok said. "A robust, diverse, and thriving higher-education ecosystem is vital to our region's flourishing. While Virginia Tech and Roanoke College each represent a distinct expression of our higher education ideals, they share a commitment to launch into the world graduates who are ready to tackle big problems, pose important questions, and strengthen our collective well-being."

"As a national thought leader in residential education and student well-being, Virginia Tech has been fortunate to have Frank Shushok as our vice president for student affairs," said Virginia Tech President Tim Sands. "He exemplifies the spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), and that will be a great benefit to the faculty, staff, and students of Roanoke College. We appreciate his dedicated service, and while he will be greatly missed at Virginia Tech, higher education in the commonwealth has gained a talented new leader and we wish him all the best."

Shushok, who has served as vice president for student affairs since April 2020, has led a division known for investing heavily in deepening and expanding student well-being and its support services, as highlighted by Virginia Tech's No. 1 ranking for Best Counseling Services in The Princeton Review and its most recent recognition as one of the healthiest college campuses in the nation by Active Minds. Prior to his role as vice president, Shushok served a decade as associate and senior associate vice president.

"There are simply no words to capture the impact that the Virginia Tech community has had on my life and on my family," said Shushok. "The sense of purpose, care for humanity, and pursuit of goodness that I found at Virginia Tech are etched on my heart and will travel with me to Roanoke College."

Among the many highlights during his tenure at Virginia Tech, Shushok championed a culture of inclusivity, belonging, and well-being, and he

promoted a strong holistic approach to student learning and development.

Under Shushok's leadership, Student Affairs launched ExperienceVT — an initiative that empowers students to plan and track their Virginia Tech experience and to fully realize the opportunities available to them at the university. Student Affairs equipped faculty and staff members with ExperienceVT concepts and tools, leading them to consider how they can help students set goals, identify their strengths, offer pathways, and encourage progress. Student Affairs also facilitated workshops for academic affairs attendees, increasing their ability to integrate ExperienceVT into the campus culture.

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the division was instrumental in supporting public health and helping to maintain an on-campus experience for students. Collaboration between the Schiffert Health Center, Housing and Residence Life, Dining Services, the New River Health District, and other partners was critical for the successful management of student isolation/quarantine and education during the height of the pandemic.

"I very much appreciate Frank's dedicated service to Virginia Tech — his exemplary leadership, unwavering support for student wellness and success, commitment to co-curricular education, and his dedication to serving the needs and best interests of our entire university community," said Executive Vice President and Provost Cyril Clarke. "In addition to his administrative excellence, he is a scholar and is recognized nationwide for his innovation in student affairs. His knowledge and experience as a leader in higher education will position him and Roanoke College for future success. I wish him and his family the best of luck in this new endeavor."

Student affairs will launch its Residential Well-being model in the fall of 2022. The model will implement Shushok's divisional vision to meet the needs of a student's mental, emotional, and social well-being by integrating a student's living experience with Hokie Wellness, Cook Counseling Center, the Dean of Students, Living-Learning Programs, Housing Services, Learning Partnerships, and through partnership with Student Affairs' Chief Inclusion and Belonging Officer.

More about Shushok's appointment to Roanoke College can be read on the college's announcement at [https://www.roanoke.edu/about/news/frank\\_shushok\\_jr](https://www.roanoke.edu/about/news/frank_shushok_jr).

An interim vice president for student affairs will be announced soon, along with the plans to recruit a successor.

## Employee Appreciation Day and Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair on May 18

Save the date for the first-ever Virginia Tech Employee Appreciation Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 18, at Lane Stadium.

Beginning in 1993, the university has celebrated staff by holding Staff Appreciation Day in May for more than 3,500 staff and wage employees. This year, we are excited to invite all of our nearly 9,000 faculty, staff, and wage employees, local to the Blacksburg campus, to come together as a community to express our appreciation for your hard work and dedication to Virginia Tech. Conversations are underway to explore potential future events at other locations around the Commonwealth.

In addition, the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair, historically held in January, will combine with the Employee Appreciation Day event to provide an enriched program for all. The event will provide health and wellness vendors, games, a DJ, hourly walking tours, lunch, and more.

More information will be shared in the coming weeks. For questions, email [employeeprograms@vt.edu](mailto:employeeprograms@vt.edu).

## Mental health survey is live, closes April 18

On March 22, all employees with a Virginia Tech email account should receive an email from [healthyminds-VirginiaTech@umich.edu](mailto:healthyminds-VirginiaTech@umich.edu) inviting them to complete a mental health survey by April 18. Check your email for this message, which contains a personalized link to the confidential survey. This link should not be forwarded to others, as it is your personalized link. Completing the survey will take approximately 15 minutes.

This national survey, the Healthy Minds Study, is designed to understand the mental health and well-being of campus employees, their perceptions of the school environment, and their experiences supporting students in distress.

Information on the survey will be provided to supervisors and managers for employees who have limited access to computers.

Employees who complete the survey by April 18 will be entered into a drawing for an iPad. The drawing will be conducted by the Healthy Minds Network. The winner will be selected and contacted in April, following the close of the survey. (The winner will be taxed for the value of the prize.)

The Healthy Minds Study (HMS) for Faculty and Staff is an annual survey from the Healthy Minds Network, part of the University of Michigan. The survey was piloted in spring 2021 with support from the Mary Christie Institute and the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation.

Virginia Tech has sent the Health Minds survey to students in the past. This is the first time Virginia Tech employees will take the survey; students will also have the opportunity to complete this year's survey.

Your responses will help improve understanding of how campuses can better support faculty, staff, and students nationally and at Virginia Tech. It will help inform decisions Virginia Tech makes about resources it provides for employees. At the end of the survey, all respondents will receive a list of local mental health resources.

Responses are confidential and protected. Names and identifiers are removed, and only aggregated data will be reported.

This is an important opportunity for employees to share their perceptions and provide valuable feedback. If you have questions about the survey, contact the Hokie Wellness team at 540-231-8878 or [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu).

## Complete a survey on child care needs

Identifying ways to help our Hokie families access quality, affordable care for their children is a priority for the university.

As part of our ongoing work to address this important issue, Virginia Tech faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to complete a child care survey to gauge the current use and needs regarding child care across Virginia Tech's communities. Even if you do not use child care, please take a moment to complete the survey.

Please complete the 2022 VT Community Childcare Survey by Monday, April 4. The link to the survey can be found at <https://vt.vt.edu/notices/2022/03/hr-caregiving-survey-childcare-needs.html>. All submissions are anonymous.

Visit the Caregiving site at <https://caregiving.vt.edu/> for information, resources, and more.

## DMV returns to Virginia Tech

The DMV returns to Virginia Tech on Wednesday, April 6, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the North End Center, room 2410.

Services that will be offered include the REAL ID, driver's license, vehicle registration, address changes, vehicle titles and more. Appointments are 15 minutes, required, and each transaction requires an appointment. For example, if you want to obtain your REAL ID and complete a vehicle registration, you would need to register for two appointments. Register for your appointment(s) at <https://sugeni.us/ddep>.

Visit the [DMVNow.com](https://dmvnow.com) website to see what you need to complete your transaction(s). Additional questions may be directed to Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu).