



Support local charities through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

I am pleased to announce the start of the 2021 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC).

I am honored to serve as this year's honorary CVC chair for Virginia Tech. As dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, I see firsthand how we can make a difference in the lives of others in very important and meaningful ways.

Since joining the Hokie Nation in 2019, I have been impressed by the commitment to service by our employees and students. For many in our community, the challenges of the past year and a half have been difficult. In the spirit of Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), let us join together to make a difference by supporting organizations that provide services and support in the communities where we live and work

This year's campaign runs from Oct. 1 to Dec. 10. Since 2010, Virginia Tech employees have donated more than \$3.5 million to charities in Blacksburg, the New River Valley, and across Virginia. With this amazing record of accomplishment, I am confident we will come together to not only meet, but exceed, this year's goal of \$390,000.

Every dollar counts and makes a difference. I encourage you to visit the CVC website at <https://www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/> for information on how you can help those in our areas who may need additional assistance. With more than 900 charities listed, you can see how each of us can positively impact others in very important and meaningful ways.

It's not about how much you give — participation is our goal. It's the act of giving itself that makes this campaign so special. There are multiple ways to give, which are detailed on the CVC donation page at <https://www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/donate.html>.

For questions or assistance, please contact your department representative or steering team member. A list of steering team members is listed on the CVC website at <https://www.cvc.hr.vt.edu/resources/steering-team.html>.

We are truly in this together. Collectively, we can make a big difference for the community.

Be well and stay safe.

Lee Learman
Dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Honorary Chair, 2021 Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign

Virtual fall retirement planning seminars available

Human Resources is committed to making sure employees are well prepared for retirement. To assist you, we have set up retirement planning information sessions.

Sessions are split into employee's mandatory retirement plans.

- Virginia Retirement System sessions include information on the VRS retirement options, calculating monthly benefits, increasing retirement income, life insurance, health insurance, and other VRS benefits and resources. Representatives from TIAA, Fidelity, and MissionSquare Retirement will be present to discuss the voluntary 403(b) and 457 and cash match plans.
- The Optional Retirement Plan session includes information on increasing retirement income, life insurance, health insurance, and other retirement benefits and resources. Representatives from TIAA and Fidelity will be present to discuss retirement planning and payout options as well as answer general questions.

All employees are welcome to attend. The information presented will be helpful to employees planning to retire within the next six years.

The following sessions are available:

Virginia Retirement System – Planning Sessions

- Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, Nov. 12 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- VRS Registration: <https://virginiatech.pageuppeople.com/learning/5806>

Optional Retirement Plan – Planning Session

- Wednesday, Nov. 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

ORP Registration: <https://virginiatech.pageuppeople.com/learning/5861>

Sessions will be conducted via Zoom. Registration is required for these free sessions. If you would prefer to view the Zoom in person please email emoleon@vt.edu and accommodations can be made.

Note: Please ensure you register for the correct session based on your retirement plan. If you do not know which retirement plan you are enrolled in, view your Virginia Tech pay stub in HokieSpa or contact the HR Service Center at hrrservicecenter@vt.edu or 540-231-9331.

All encouraged to participate in National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and everyone is invited to participate. Each October, Virginia Tech's ADA and Accessibility Services, in the Office for Equity and Accessibility, hosts an event in support of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The event is a celebration of the numerous and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

The theme for this year's virtual event, which will be held on Oct. 15, is "America's Recovery: Powered by Inclusion." We will be exploring Animals and the ADA. Event details are included below. We hope to see you there.

The events are free; registration is required. Please fill out this one minute survey located at <https://vtx.vt.edu/notices/2021/09/oea-ndeam-october-2021.html> if you are interested in attending the event. ASL Interpreting and captioning will be available for each event. If you are an individual with a disability and need additional accommodations, contact Raksha Sharma at raksha7@vt.edu or (540) 231-2567 by 5 p.m. on Oct. 8.

Event date: Friday, October 15

- Equilibrium Equine Therapies – 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.: An Equilibrium Equine Assisted Therapies representative will talk about the benefits of equine-assisted therapy and conduct a brief team-building activity.
Zoom registration link: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrde6orzlpGtx1Q2P0uT_3gkavWTRi1le3
- Saint Francis Service Dogs – 11:30 a.m. – Noon: A Saint Francis Service Dogs representative will briefly talk about how dogs are trained to provide assistance to their disabled owners.
Zoom registration link: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdeyhpiMqH9lqDCpuleE8kYqjyKff31S_
- ASL Q&A with James Bell – 1 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Guest speaker James A. Bell will answer your question about American Sign Language. Bell is the senior interpreter and C-Print™ Captionist for Services for Students with Disabilities. To submit your questions follow this link.
Zoom registration link: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUf-yhrDwvHdPx5m3sE7U_11kjpPCEG2cC

Flu season is coming; protect yourself and others with a flu vaccine

Thank you to all of the members of our community who have received their COVID-19 vaccine. Your commitment to your health as well as the health of your family and others in the community is a critical part of the fight against COVID-19.

While fighting the pandemic continues to be an important

focus, fall is the time when other respiratory illnesses, like flu, begin to spread. It's important that we all take the necessary steps to reduce the spread of these seasonal illnesses too. That's why Virginia Tech is encouraging all employees and students to get a flu vaccination.

As a service to all employees, Hokie Wellness offers flu vaccination clinics each fall. The clinics are for employees only to limit the number of visitors on campus. Families/dependents of employees may be vaccinated at the drive through clinic on Oct. 30; see below for more information.

- Salaried faculty and staff who are covered by state health insurance plans must show their insurance card to receive a free vaccine.
- Non-student wage employees may also receive a free flu vaccine at the clinics by showing their Hokie Passport.
- Salaried F&S who are not covered by state health insurance plans may receive a flu vaccine at the clinics; be prepared to pay \$25 by cash or check at the clinic.

Flu vaccination clinics begin Oct. 5 and run through Oct. 30 at locations across campus. Registration is required for the flu clinics. Please be aware of the following:

- Because the flu clinics will be held in indoor public spaces, masks will be required to be worn and attendees will be asked to maintain physical distancing.
- Individuals who feel sick, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 should not attend the event.
- Injectable flu vaccines will be available at these clinics.

Following is information on the clinics:

- North End Center: Oct. 5, 12, 26, & 28, 8 a.m. – 2:30 pm.
- Steger Hall: Oct. 6, 13, and 27, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- North End Center – drive through clinic: Oct. 30, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Families/dependents of employees may attend this clinic.

NOTE: The registration link found at <https://vtx.vt.edu/notices/2021/09/hokie-wellness-flu-clinics-2021.html> contains specific information about each clinic.

For questions:

- About Hokie Wellness flu clinics, contact Hokie Wellness at hokiewellness@vt.edu or 540-231-8878.
- About flu vaccines and your medical plan, contact your plan provider.
- From students about the flu, contact Schiffert Health Center at health@vt.edu or 540-231-6444.