

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

Virginia Tech will conduct a full-scale test of its VT Alerts system Tuesday, Sept. 13, on the Blacksburg campus as well as university facilities located in six regions across Virginia.

The test will occur between 8 a.m. and 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 or VT Desktop Alert by visiting the VT Alerts website.

Those with a Virginia Tech PID are eligible to subscribe to VT Phone Alerts, which can be sent to a cell (by voice or text message), home, and/or office phone, or a non-Virginia Tech email address. Subscribers are able to choose up to three preferred contact methods for VT Phone Alerts. However, individuals should make sure to provide only their current and direct contact information.

Users without a Virginia Tech PID are eligible to subscribe to VT Desktop Alerts or VT Twitter Alerts. VT Desktop Alerts are available to users who have downloaded an application to their personal computer. VT Twitter Alerts are sent through SMS text message and do not require a Twitter account to subscribe.

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.

Students and employees are strongly encouraged to log in to the VT Phone Alerts website to update notification preferences and verify contact information prior to the Sept. 13 test.

While in the system, users can also choose up to three regions in which to receive notification. The available regions include:

- **Blacksburg** (Virginia Tech main campus, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine);
- **National Capital Region** (Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church, Va.; Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va.; Middleburg Agricultural Research and Extension Center; Alexandria Center; Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory in Manassas, Va.; Virginia Tech Research Center – Arlington);
- **Richmond** (Virginia Tech Richmond Center);
- **Hampton Roads** (Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center, Virginia Beach; Virginia Tech Hampton Roads Center, Newport News);
- **Roanoke** (Roanoke Higher Education Center, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute);

-- **Abingdon** (Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center); and

-- **Danville** (Institute for Advanced Learning and Research).

Individuals who have subscribed but do not receive a phone alert during the test should first log in to verify that their record is correct and then contact 4Help at 540-231-HELP (4357).

In the event of an actual emergency, individuals must be aware of their surroundings and take immediate responsibility for their personal safety and security. Initial VT Alerts messages will provide basic information on the nature and location of the emergency, as well as instructions for what to do. Subsequent VT Alerts messages or first responders will provide additional instructions and updates about the incident until the all clear is given. Detailed information, when available, will be posted to the university homepage at [www.vt.edu](http://www.vt.edu).

Visit the VT Alerts website at [www.alerts.vt.edu](http://www.alerts.vt.edu) for more information or to sign up.

## President Tim Sands to give first State of the University Address Sept. 30

Virginia Tech President Tim Sands will deliver his first State of the University Address on Friday, Sept. 30, at the Moss Arts Center.

Doors will open at 3:15 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, and a community reception will follow on the lawn outside the Moss Arts Center.

The event is free and open to the public, and the Virginia Tech community is encouraged to attend. The university will livestream the event so that students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni located outside Blacksburg can participate.

During his address, Sands will reflect on the issues, events, and accomplishments of the previous school year, and share his thoughts, ideas, and vision for the university in the current academic year.

Additional information on the State of the University Address will be shared through Virginia Tech News emails, the event website ([www.vt.edu/state-of-university.html](http://www.vt.edu/state-of-university.html)), and social media channels as the date approaches.

Parking is available in the North End Parking Garage on Turner Street. Virginia Tech faculty and staff possessing a valid Virginia Tech parking permit can enter and exit the garage free of charge. Limited street parking is also available.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, contact Kacy McAllister at 540-231-5300 or email [kmcallis@vt.edu](mailto:kmcallis@vt.edu) during regular business hours at least 10 business days prior to an event.

## 2017 holiday, winter closing schedule announced

The 2017 holiday schedule was released by the governor's office and is now available online, along with the 2017 winter

closing schedule. The combined schedule is available on the Department of Human Resources website at [www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday\\_schedule](http://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/leave/holiday_schedule).

For more information, contact the HR Service Center: Send an email to [hrrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrrservicecenter@vt.edu) or call 540-231-9331.

## Discover how emotions can impact investment decisions

Emotions have a direct impact on the decisions we make, including financial decisions. When making investments, emotions have a major role in the decision making process and can effect long term investment results.

On Thursday, Sept. 15, Todd Saunders, CFP, a wealth management advisor for TIAA, will be on campus to discuss how emotions impact investment decisions and how to mitigate risks by developing a disciplined investment strategy with employees.

Three sessions will be held at North End Center (room 2200):  
-- 10-11 a.m.  
-- 1-2 p.m.  
-- 4-5 p.m.

Registration is required. To register, visit [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu), click "view by alpha" and search for "Retirement Planning Sessions: Behavioral Finance: How Your Emotions Can Impact Your Investment Decisions."

For more information, contact the HR Service Center: Send an email to [hrrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrrservicecenter@vt.edu) or call 540-231-9331.

## Finding Balance Conference helps employees with work, life harmony

Employees can discover ways to increase self-compassion, reduce stress, and enjoy life at the fifth annual Hokie Wellness Finding Balance Conference ([www.hokiewellness.vt.edu/programming/employee/finding-balance/index.html](http://www.hokiewellness.vt.edu/programming/employee/finding-balance/index.html))

The Conference, which is free for employees and students, will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 28, at The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center.

Registration is open for the morning keynote session: "The Science of Self-Compassion" and the afternoon keynote session: "The Practice of Self-Compassion".

Registration is now full for the full-day conference option. Individuals interested in attending the full-day conference will be put on a waiting list.

Registration is required by Thursday, Sept. 21. To register, visit [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu), click "view by alpha," search for "Finding Balance Conference," and choose the appropriate session.

Cancellations must be made by contacting Hokie Wellness at 540-231-8878 at least three business days prior to the date of the conference. All no-shows and cancellations received less than three business days prior to the date of the conference will be charged a \$35 cancellation fee.

The Inn at Virginia Tech offers special room rates for employees wishing to travel from extended campus locations.

For more information contact Hokie Wellness at [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu) or 540-231-8878 (employees) or 540-231-2233 (students).

## Variety of professional and diversity development workshops available

University Organizational and Professional Development workshop's support the development of VT-shaped employees and provide the tools

and skills that are the foundation of purpose-driven engagement.

Upcoming professional and diversity development workshops include:

-- Computer Desktop Application Classes: Offerings include basic, intermediate, and advanced courses in Microsoft Access, Excel, OneNote, Outlook, PowerPoint, Project, Visio, and Word, along with Adobe Photoshop.

-- Emotional Intelligence: Explore why emotional intelligence is so important in the workplace and how it operates to promote success. Identify tools and strategies to improve emotional intelligence.

-- Gender Identity and Gender Expression: Beyond anatomy, there are multiple ways of defining gender. This workshop examines, discusses, and expands conceptualizations of gender identity and expression.

-- Leading Change: Change is inevitable. While we may not have any control over external change, we have complete control over how we react and respond to change. Learn methods for successfully managing personal transitions.

-- Managing Conflict: Participants will learn communication skills to address conflict and will have the opportunity to participate in role playing to practice those skills.

Workshops are open to all employees and are held in North End Center. Sessions fill up quickly and space is limited. View a full list of current offerings at [www.uopd.vt.edu/workshops/current-offerings.html](http://www.uopd.vt.edu/workshops/current-offerings.html) and register online at [www.training.vt.edu](http://www.training.vt.edu).

For more information, or to inquire about bringing organizational and professional development services directly to your team or department, contact University Organizational and Professional Development at [uopd@vt.edu](mailto:uopd@vt.edu) or 540-231-5100.

## Virginia Tech Police continue to investigate recent cyber threat

**Wednesday, Aug. 31, 10:41 a.m.**

The threatening emails received by university affiliates on Monday, August 29 remains an open investigation with the Virginia Tech Police Department. At this point in the investigation, it does not appear that the location of origin of the threatening emails is within the region. Numerous reports of similar incidents from throughout the United States continue to be communicated to the Virginia Tech Police Department, and all of the agencies involved continue to collectively investigate this matter.

The Virginia Tech Police Department, along with state and federal authorities, remain vigilant in their pursuit of determining the individual or individuals responsible.

The campus community is reminded to remain aware of their surroundings and to report suspicious persons or activities immediately to the Virginia Tech Police Department. The university will continue its daily operations as normal.

**Tuesday, Aug. 30, 9:23 p.m.**

The Virginia Tech Police Department continues to investigate the threat received Monday. At this time, there is no additional information to report.

Anyone with any information should send an email to [threatassessment@vt.edu](mailto:threatassessment@vt.edu) or call 540-382-4343.

Find the most up-to-date information at <https://vtnews.vt.edu/notices/adm-pd-situationalawareness.html>.

*Virginia Tech News* is published weekly during fall and spring semester and bimonthly during the summer sessions, by the Department 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.