



## A statement from President Tim Sands on the Climate Action Commitment

To the Virginia Tech community: The sense of urgency surrounding climate change is increasing throughout the world, the nation, and our community. I believe climate change represents one of the world's most pressing problems and as a global land-grant university, Virginia Tech has a duty to respond. We have long been a leader in seeking a sustainable society, with the university's original Climate Action Commitment ([www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/climate-action-commitment.html](http://www.facilities.vt.edu/sustainability/climate-action-commitment.html)) endorsed by the Board of Visitors in 2009 and revised and reaffirmed in 2014. It is time to update and renew our commitment with that same mindset of urgency and leadership.

I have asked Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer Dwayne Pinkney to assemble an ad hoc committee to review our progress and propose an updated climate action commitment. The committee will include faculty experts engaged in teaching and research on climate change, energy policy, and energy economics, along with representatives from Facilities and Operations, the Energy and Sustainability Committee of the Commission on University Support, and students. Student representatives will be encouraged to assemble a larger advisory group to provide information, concerns, and questions to the ad hoc committee. The committee's recommendations will proceed through the university's shared governance process, culminating in presentation to the Board of Visitors for final adoption. I will ask the committee to complete its work this academic year, with final governance steps during fall 2020.

I encourage everyone in the Virginia Tech community to learn more about our Climate Action Commitment and the positive work we can accomplish when students, faculty, and administrators unite under a common goal. Sustainability is part of the fabric of this university as we pursue environmental quality and stewardship, economic stability and affordability, diversity and inclusion, expansion of knowledge, and the education of future leaders. The university's new strategic plan reflects these values. When we come together as a community to address common concerns, we can find a path to a bright and sustainable future. The spirit of *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) will assure that our commitment is realized.

Sincerely,  
Tim Sands

## Employees honored for their military service

Each year, Virginia Tech gives employees who served in the military a gift of appreciation in honor of their service to our country.

This year, approximately 300 employees who have self-identified as military veterans received an invitation to the university's Veterans Day observance events along with a Virginia Tech stadium blanket.

Each invitation and gift is hand delivered to employees by members of the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets the week prior to Veterans Day. "Through this program, I had the honor of presenting a gift to someone who has not only served our country but helps make Virginia Tech home. This program is meaningful to me because I've always believed that simple acts of kindness can make an enormous difference in someone's day," said Christina Van Meter, a first-year cadet in Air Force ROTC majoring in university studies.

"It is an honor for Human Resources to partner with the Corps of Cadets to show appreciation to our veteran employees," said Bryan Garey, vice president for human resources. "Their service is the ultimate expression of Virginia Tech's motto, *Ut Prosim*. We thank you and honor you."

This year, a Veterans Day remembrance ceremony began at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 11 in the War Memorial Chapel at 601 Drillfield Drive. The event was open to the public. You can find more information about the events held online at <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2019/11/hr-veteran-employees.html>.

Employees who have served in the military are encouraged to update their employee information if they did not self-identify as a veteran when they were hired. Veteran classification can be updated by logging into Hokie SPA (<http://hokiespa.vt.edu>), clicking on Hokie Team and then Veterans Classification. For questions or more information about self-identifying as a military veteran, contact the HR Service Center at 540-231-9331 or [hrrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrrservicecenter@vt.edu).

## Sherwood Wilson to retire from Virginia Tech next year

Sherwood Wilson, who has served Virginia Tech in a variety of administrative capacities for more than 18 years, will retire from the university in 2020.

Wilson, who returned to Virginia Tech in 2007 to become vice president for administrative services after serving as vice chancellor for finance and administrative affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has served in his current role as vice president for operations since 2017. He will step down from that post and will serve in a special projects role for the next year under Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer Dwayne Pinkney.

“With ambitious plans for operations and an aggressive schedule to move forward with capital projects in Blacksburg, Roanoke, and Northern Virginia, we are fortunate to have Sherwood available to us for the year as we transition to our new model for operational excellence,” Pinkney said.

“Sherwood’s impact on the growth and development of the infrastructure that undergirds Virginia Tech and its academic enterprise has been transformative, in Blacksburg and across the commonwealth,” added university President Tim Sands. “Along with building and maintaining world-class campus facilities, he instilled a culture of safety and security throughout our community. I am deeply grateful for Sherwood’s many contributions to Virginia Tech.”

Wilson’s career has spanned more than 40 years, during which he led facilities, construction, business, human resources, safety and security, and financial operations in both private and higher education sectors.

As vice president at Virginia Tech, Wilson presided over more than 40 major capital construction projects totaling more than \$1.1 billion and encompassing more than 2.4 million square feet, as well as scores of campus renovation projects and a half dozen solicited and unsolicited public-private partnership proposals and projects.

He also oversaw the development of the university’s current Campus Master Plan, which was adopted by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors in 2018 and honored with the Society for College and University Planning Excellence in Planning for an Existing Campus Merit Award for its innovative, collaborative, multidisciplinary, and integrated approach to planning and design.

To read more on the word done by Sherwood Wilson during his time at Virginia Tech, follow the link below.

<https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2019/11/operations-wilson-retire.html>

## Listening sessions scheduled to address, discuss issues of sexual violence

Established through a charge from Presidents Tim Sands, the End Sexual Violence Program Committee comprised of students, faculty and staff has been created and is hosting a series of community forums to address and discuss issues of sexual violence at Virginia Tech.

To launch this year-long endeavor, the committee is hosting listening sessions to solicit input from students regarding the university climate and to hear their views and ideas for transforming the culture around sexual violence at Virginia Tech. Individual students may attend an open listening session and student groups, organizations or departments may also request a focused listening session, specifically for their organization or group.

There are currently two open listening sessions scheduled:

- November 15, 12-1:30 p.m., Brush Mountain A and B in Squires Student Center
- November 19, 7-8:30 p.m., Newman Library Multipurpose Room

Registration is required to attend the listening sessions. To register for an Open Listen Session, visit:

[https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3XmZ0QTbjFQaQ3X](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3XmZ0QTbjFQaQ3X)

To request a listening session specifically for your organization, visit: [https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7UJ0397lqXpdgIT](https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7UJ0397lqXpdgIT)

For questions or additional information, please contact Christine Dennis Smith at [cdennis@vt.edu](mailto:cdennis@vt.edu).

## Football, basketball tickets available for Virginia Tech faculty and staff

In honor of Coach Bud Foster’s 33 years of service to Virginia Tech, \$33 Faculty/Staff tickets are available for the Football game vs Pitt on Nov. 23 (game time TBD). Use the promo code: FS33 at <http://vthoki.es/PromoCode>

Offer available online only and while supplies last.

Additionally, select basketball games will have complimentary admission for Faculty/Staff members.

Women’s Basketball

Jan. 5 at 2 p.m. vs UNC and Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. vs Pitt

Men’s Basketball

Dec. 21 at 4 p.m. vs VMI and Dec. 29 at 6 p.m. vs UMES

A valid faculty/staff ID (Hokie Passport) should be presented at the ticket windows on game day. Each ID warrants two tickets; no more than four IDs may be used by one person. Tickets can be picked up *90 minutes prior to game time at the Cassell Coliseum Ticket Office (while supplies last)*.