

# NEWS & INFORMATION

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## Stop by the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair today

Employees are encouraged to start 2016 off right by learning how to weave wellness into their lives today at the Hokie Wellness Health and Benefits Fair. All employees are invited to attend the fair from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McComas Hall. While admission is free, employees must bring a Hokie Passport to sign-in and be entered to win door prizes. Employees are encouraged to bring comfortable clothes to experience a variety of recreational activities.

Activities include educational sessions, massages, group exercise classes, swim lessons, cooking demonstrations, and much more. More than 70 exhibitors will also be on-site. The cardio areas, weight rooms, and spinning area will also be open to employees. A full list of activities and exhibitors is available at

[www.hokiewellness.hr.vt.edu/PhysicalHealth/HealthandBenefitsFair.aspx](http://www.hokiewellness.hr.vt.edu/PhysicalHealth/HealthandBenefitsFair.aspx)

Stop by and have lunch at one of three onsite food trucks. The Noke Truck, Toasted by Casey, and Hethwood Market will be set-up in the Lot 1 parking area (Coliseum lot) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be offering full lunch menus.

As part of the university's commitment to maintaining healthy lifestyles, all employees are encouraged to participate and will receive two hours of approved leave to attend the fair.

The event is sponsored by the Department of Human Resources, the Division of Student Affairs, and Carilion Clinic.

For more information, contact Hokie Wellness at 540-231-9331 or [hokiewellness@vt.edu](mailto:hokiewellness@vt.edu).

## Stanger Street to reopen Jan. 16

A section of Stranger Street between Drillfield Drive and McBryde Hall is closed as crews work to bring steam to the Upper Quad area of campus. The road is scheduled to reopen January 16.

Find out more about the redesign of the Upper Quad at [www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2013/03/032913-vpas-upperquad.html](http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2013/03/032913-vpas-upperquad.html).

For more information, contact Aaron Curfiss at 540-449-9148.

## Virginia Tech to host a Fireside Chat with NBC anchor Hoda Kotb

Virginia Tech's Pamplin College of Business and the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences will jointly host a fireside chat and book signing with NBC anchor Hoda Kotb on Friday, Jan. 15, at the Capital One building in McLean, Virginia.

Kotb, a 1986 Virginia Tech graduate, is a television news anchor and best known as the co-host of the fourth hour of "The Today Show" with Kathie Lee Gifford. Kotb is also a Dateline NBC correspondent and host of her own SiriusXM radio show.

At the fireside chat led by Christina Daves, who graduated from Virginia Tech with degrees in political science and German and who subsequently founded PR for Anyone, Kotb will discuss her journey from Virginia Tech to NBC and business lessons learned along the way. Register to attend the event at [www.apps.pamplin.vt.edu/register/waitlist.aspx?e=91](http://www.apps.pamplin.vt.edu/register/waitlist.aspx?e=91) or to watch the live-stream coverage at <https://prforanyone.leadpages.co/hoda/>.

She also will appear at a book signing, sponsored by Merrifield Garden Center, for "Where We Belong: Journeys That Show Us The Way," which was released Monday, Jan. 5. The new book is the third of a series of inspirational stories Kotb has authored. Her first two books both were New York Times best sellers.

According to "The Today Show" description of the book, "'Where We Belong' will be a selection of various stories of inspiring people who 'found themselves' in completely unexpected moments or unforeseen circumstances. From heartwarming stories to tales of heartbreak, all of the characters Hoda meets eventually work their way to something greater than they'd initially believed possible."

A graduate of Virginia Tech's communications department, Kotb was an active member around campus and in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. As a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and WUVT, Virginia Tech's student run radio station, Kotb pursued her passion quickly in college and translated her work to a successful broadcasting career.

Kotb was invited to be the keynote speaker role for the spring 2008 University Commencement ceremony because of her passion and leadership. Kotb was elected to a three-year term for the Virginia Tech Alumni Association board of directors in 2010.

The fireside chat will take place at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 15, at the Capital One building in McLean, Virginia. Get up-to-date information about the event through Pamplin social media channels, including Facebook ([www.facebook.com/vtpamplin](http://www.facebook.com/vtpamplin)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/VTPamplin>), are managed by PRISM (Pamplin Re-Inventing Social Media), a student-run organization within the college.

## University policy 4800 updated to allow for more educational opportunities for employees

As part of the university's commitment to developing well-rounded employees, University Policy 4800: Tuition Assistance and Reimbursement Program for Salaried Employees ([www.policies.vt.edu/4800.pdf](http://www.policies.vt.edu/4800.pdf)) has been revised to include an allowance for accelerated programs offered by Virginia Tech.

Under the new revisions, eligible employees may be granted assistance for up to 24 credit hours per year for certain Virginia Tech programs (e.g. Professional Master of Business Administration, Executive Master of Business Administration, Executive Master of Natural Resources).

Policy 4800 also offers salaried employees who have been with the university for at least 90 days the opportunity to apply for tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance and Reimbursement Program applies to full- and part-time salaried employees who wish to take credit courses at Virginia Tech or other accredited institutions. Employees are reminded that tuition assistance (assistance and/or reimbursement) exceeding \$5,250 is taxable in most cases, and will be reported on a W-2 as non-cash earnings and taxed accordingly. Learn more about the university's employee educational benefits at [www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/tuition/index.html](http://www.hr.vt.edu/benefits/tuition/index.html).

For more information, contact the Human Resources Service Center at 540-231-9331 or [hrservicecenter@vt.edu](mailto:hrservicecenter@vt.edu).

## University community will honor Martin Luther King Jr. legacy from Jan. 18-31

The Virginia Tech community will have numerous opportunities to celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. the last two weeks of January. University offices are closed and there are no classes on Jan. 18, the official holiday honoring him, but that day still kicks off a series of events that highlight King's impact on our world.

This year's theme originates from King's quote, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" The Jan. 18-31 celebration showcases collaborations throughout the university to bring awareness to the influence and power of King's life and mission. Student organizations, academic departments, and the Division of Student Affairs are all providing events and opportunities for the university community to honor King.

Matthew Winston, Jr., senior associate vice president for alumni relations at Virginia Tech, will give the keynote address of the university's celebration at 5 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 25 in Colonial Hall in Squires Student Center.

A list of all scheduled events can be found at [www.iec.vt.edu/mlk](http://www.iec.vt.edu/mlk). Events and more information will also be published in Virginia Tech News (<http://vtnews.vt.edu/index.html>), the university calendar ([www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php](http://www.calendar.vt.edu/main.php)), and GobblerConnect (<https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu>).

## Networked Learning Initiatives courses open for enrollment

Professional development opportunities, offered by Networked Learning Initiatives (NLI), for the spring semester are open for registration.

NLI offers professional development opportunities that foster integration of technology in teaching, learning, research, and daily activities for faculty, staff, and students at Virginia Tech. Professional development opportunities are designed to meet the needs of all levels of participants. Topics include:

- Getting Started with Canvas: VT's new Learning Management System
- Google Applications for Education
- Game-Based Learning
- Building Community in the Classroom
- Active Learning Technologies
- Online Teaching and Learning
- Technology-enhanced Teaching and Learning
- Making Your Course Accessible
- Research Computing
- Data Management and Visualization
- Open Educational Resources
- Cloud Computing

In addition to individual workshops, NLI offers a range of opportunities including certificate programs, learning communities, and

faculty inquiry groups.

Learn more about NLI offerings and register by visiting <https://app.nli.tlos.vt.edu/>.

Networked Learning Initiatives is unit of Technology-enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, a division of Information Technology.

For more information, contact Aaron Bond at 540-231-1832.

## Teenagers and parents sought for social and academic experiences study

Parents and adolescents are needed for a study on social and academic experiences. The study will require each teenager, along with their parent and a friend of the same gender, to complete questionnaires, conversation tasks, and a speech task. The study will be held on the Blacksburg campus and should take approximately an hour and a half. Teens, their participating friend, and participating parent will be given a \$10 gift certificate.

For more information, contact the Virginia Tech Social Development Lab at 231-8179 or [socdev@vt.edu](mailto:socdev@vt.edu).

## Adult smokers needed for a study on decision-making and cravings

Adults who smoke are needed for a six-session, confidential study regarding decision-making and cravings. Participation involves brain stimulation, computerized assessments, and an MRI scan.

Compensation for qualified participants ranges from \$20 to \$370 based on extent of participation.

For more information, contact 540-315-0205 or [arre@vtc.vt.edu](mailto:arre@vtc.vt.edu).

## Free foreign language classes available to faculty and staff

All Virginia Tech faculty and staff are eligible for foreign language conversation courses at the Language and Culture Institute including Chinese, French, Spanish, and German.

Participation is free, though course books must be purchased separately. Classes take place at the Language and Culture Institute on University City Boulevard in Blacksburg (across from University Mall and behind the Rite Aid). Parking is available and does not require a permit.

In cooperation with the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, the classes are made possible by support from the offices of the Vice President of Outreach and International Affairs and the Vice President for Research.

Classes begin Feb. 1. There is no formal registration procedure. Interested employees can sign up by contacting the instructor directly. For contact information and class schedule, visit [www.lci.vt.edu/faculty-staff/foreign-language-classes/](http://www.lci.vt.edu/faculty-staff/foreign-language-classes/).

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