

Dear Members of the VTCSOM Board of Directors,

As you may have seen in the news today, I am saddened that Virginia Tech President Emeritus Charles Steger passed away. He died at his home in Blacksburg, Virginia, on Sunday evening at the age of 70. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Charles was one of the visionaries behind the partnership between Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic, teaming up with former Carilion CEO Ed Murphy – who passed away in October 2017 – to create what is now the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute. They announced the partnership and plans for the school and research institute in January 2007. A year later, I arrived to begin building the school.

Charles and Ed had a vision of what they wanted in the school: problem-based curriculum, small class size, and a research-intensive education. Charles had a goal to transform Virginia Tech into one of the nation's leading research universities. The research-intensive curriculum here was part of that focus. The outcome has been the creation of graduates who are scientist physicians, ready to use and contribute to research to improve patient care and outcomes.

Charles continued his involvement with the school, serving on our Board of Directors until 2014 when he retired as president of Virginia Tech.

Read more about [Steger's legacy through Virginia Tech News](#).