



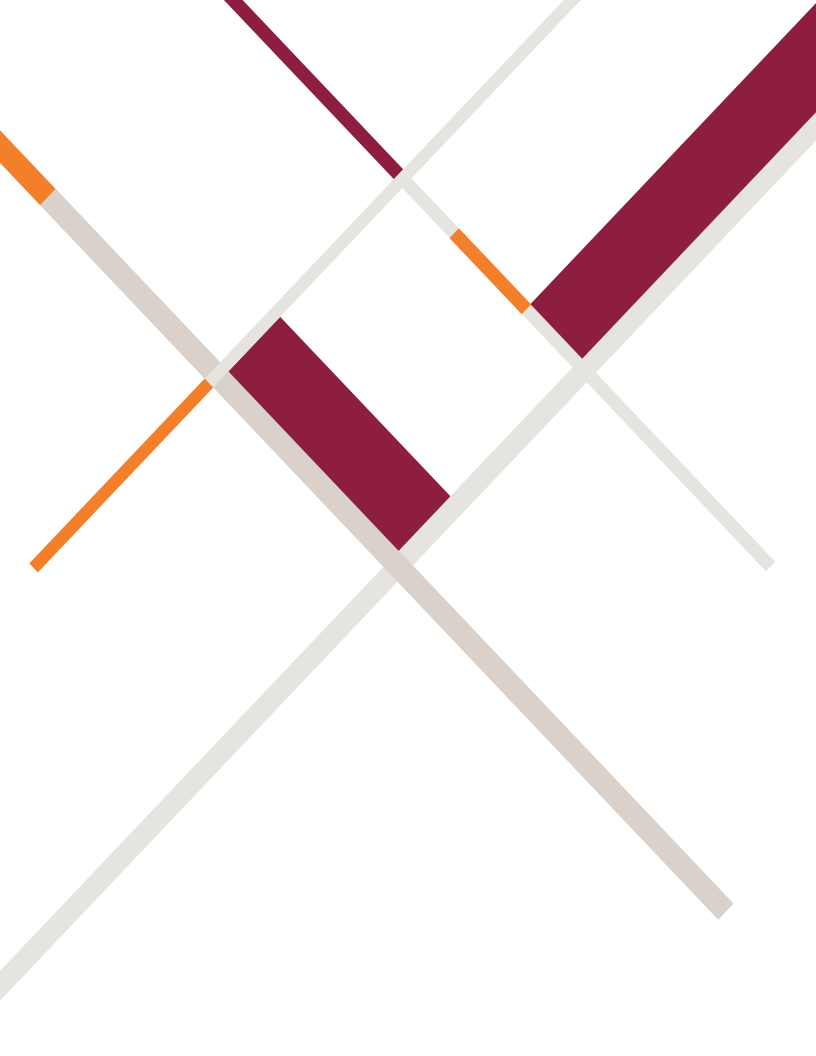
**2021**  
**FACULTY/STAFF**  
**AWARDS**



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**WELCOME**

to the 21st Annual  
Faculty/Staff Awards



# PROGRAM

## **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

Timothy D. Sands  
University President

## **AWARDS RECOGNITION**

Timothy D. Sands  
Deseria Creighton-Barney  
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors  
Cyril R. Clarke  
Executive Vice President and Provost  
Bryan Garey  
Vice President for Human Resources  
Deseria Creighton-Barney

## **CLOSING**

Timothy D. Sands

## **PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

*The President's Award for Excellence is presented annually to Virginia Tech staff members who have made extraordinary contributions by consistent excellence in the performance of their job or a single incident, contribution, or heroic act.*

### **RECIPIENTS**

#### **Jarrold M. Alls**

Quality Facilities Operations  
Division of Campus Planning, Infrastructure & Facilities

#### **Mariam J. Dadras**

Occupational Health Nurse  
Environmental Health & Safety  
Senior Vice President & Chief Business Officer

#### **Amy S. Epperley**

Director of Hokie Wellness  
Hokie Wellness/Human Resources  
Vice President for Human Resources

## Brenda J. Husser

Office Manager and  
Chief Academic Advisor  
Department of Sociology  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

## Robin S. Hypes

Timetable Coordinator  
Office of the University Registrar  
Executive Vice President & Provost

## Nancy A. Nolen

Enrollment Services Assistant  
School of Education  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

## Keith B. Nunn

Project Manager  
Academic Resource Management  
Executive Vice President & Provost

## PRESIDENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY AWARD

*The Presidential Principles of Community Award was established in 2014 by the Office of Inclusion and Diversity to recognize faculty and staff members who exemplify and promote a welcoming and inclusive environment in accord with the university's Principles of Community.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### INDIVIDUAL LONG TERM

**Brandy S. Faulkner**

Collegiate Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

#### INDIVIDUAL RECENT

**Edward Anthony Polanco**

Assistant Professor  
Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences



DEPARTMENTAL AWARD

Becky Langford  
Steve Poelzing  
Michelle Theus  
MacKenzie Tyree  
Veronica van Montfrans

Translational Biology, Medicine and Health  
Graduate School

TEAM AWARD

Teirra Holloman  
David Knight  
Walter Lee  
Jeremi London  
Adam Masters

Department of Engineering Education  
Honorifics Committee  
College of Engineering



## ALUMNI AWARD FOR OUTREACH EXCELLENCE - TEAM

*Established by the university's Commission on Outreach and International Affairs with the support of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions by Virginia Tech faculty members who have extended the university's outreach mission throughout the commonwealth, the nation, and the world. Recipients are nominated by their peers and are inducted into the university's Academy of Outreach Excellence.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### TEAM LEADER

**Naren Ramakrishnan**

Professor  
VT Urban Computing Program  
Department of Computer Science  
College of Engineering

PRINCIPLE INVESTIGATORS:

David Bieri  
Mark Embree  
Leanna House

Saifur Rahman  
Layne T. Watson  
John Ryan (*Posthumously*)

CONTRIBUTING FACULTY:

Kimberly Ellis  
Ryan Gerdes  
James Hawdon  
Robert Hildebrand  
Mike Horning  
Eric Jaques  
Scotland Leman  
Chang-Tien Lu

Brian Mayer  
Klaus Moeltner  
Christ North  
Hesham Rakha  
Chandan Reddy  
Tom Sanchez  
Nathan Self  
Pablo Tarazaga

URBCOMP PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Wanawsha Shalaby



## ALUMNI AWARD FOR OUTREACH EXCELLENCE - INDIVIDUAL

*Established by the university's Commission on Outreach and International Affairs with the support of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Outreach Excellence is presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions by Virginia Tech faculty members who have extended the university's outreach mission throughout the commonwealth, the nation, and the world. Recipients are nominated by their peers and are inducted into the university's Academy of Outreach Excellence.*

### RECIPIENT

#### EXCELLENCE AS AN INDIVIDUAL

**Katrina M. Powell**

Professor & Director  
Center for Refugee, Migrant & Displacement Studies  
Center for Rhetoric in Society  
Department of English  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

# ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

*Established in 1982 by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching is presented annually to honor two Virginia Tech faculty members for teaching excellence. Award recipients are selected by the university's Academy of Teaching Excellence and are chosen from among those faculty members who have received certificates of teaching excellence from their respective colleges during the preceding three years. Each recipient is inducted into the Academy of Teaching Excellence.*

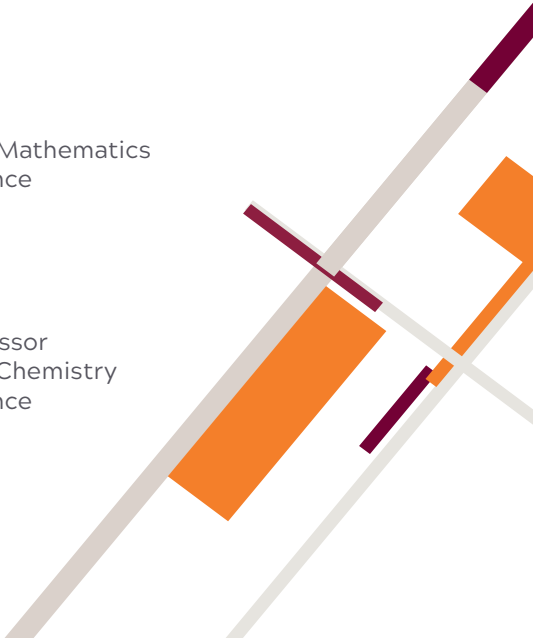
## RECIPIENTS

Mark Embree

Professor  
Department of Mathematics  
College of Science

Diego Troya

Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
College of Science





## ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING

*Established by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising is presented annually by the Office of the Provost to recognize Virginia Tech faculty who have been particularly dedicated to and effective in the advising of undergraduate students. Recipients may be nominated by university faculty or students and are selected by a committee of former award winners.*

### RECIPIENT

Daniel C. Newcomb

Academic and Career Advisor  
Department of Engineering Education  
College of Engineering



## ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE ACADEMIC ADVISING

*Established by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising is presented annually by the Office of the Provost to recognize Virginia Tech faculty who have been particularly dedicated to and effective in the advising of graduate students. Recipients may be nominated by university faculty or students, are selected by a committee of former award winners, and are inducted into the university's Academy of Advising Excellence.*

### RECIPIENT

**Maury Nussbaum**

Hal G. Prillaman Professor in the Grado  
Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering  
College of Engineering

## ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EXTENSION

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Extension is presented annually to two Virginia Cooperative Extension staff members who have made outstanding contributions outside the classroom. One award is given to an Extension Specialist and one is given to an Extension Agent.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### Steve Rideout

Director, Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center

#### Roy D. Flanagan III

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent for Virginia Beach





## WILLIAM E. WINE AWARD

*Established in 1957 by the Alumni Association in memory of William E. Wine (Class of 1904), who served on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors and as president of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the William E. Wine Award is presented annually to three Virginia Tech faculty members to recognize “a history of university teaching excellence.” Nominations by students, alumni, and faculty in each college are reviewed by respective college selection committees. The colleges’ candidates are reviewed by a university-wide committee, which then selects the three award winners. Each recipient is inducted into the university’s Academy of Teaching Excellence.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### Kimberly Ellis

Associate Professor  
Grado Department of ISE MC  
College of Engineering

#### Ignacio Moore

Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
College of Engineering

#### Lisa Marie Tucker

Professor and Chair  
Interior Design Program  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies

## EDWARD S. DIGGS TEACHING SCHOLARS AWARD

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Academy of Teaching Excellence, the Diggs Teaching Scholars Award was established in 1992 and is presented annually to up to three Virginia Tech faculty members to recognize exceptional contributions to the teaching program and learning environment. A year after receiving the award, new Diggs Teaching Scholars are invited to lead the Diggs Roundtable, a series of presentations and a discussion related to their innovative teaching. The award is supported by an endowed fund established through an estate gift from the late Edward S. and Hattie Wilson Diggs. Mr. Diggs was a 1914 graduate of Virginia Tech.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### Monique Dufour

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

#### Edward J. K. Gitre

Assistant Professor  
Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

#### Shaily Patel

Assistant Professor  
Department of Religion and Culture  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

## PROVOST'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING

*The Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising is given annually to recognize a Virginia Tech faculty or staff member who serves undergraduate advisees in exemplary ways. Recipients are inducted into the university's Academy of Advising Excellence.*

### RECIPIENT

Shelton A. Norwood

Academic Advisor  
Myers-Lawson School of Construction  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies



# XCALIBER AWARD

*Established in 1996 by the Office of the Provost, the XCaliber Award (shorthand for exceptional, high-caliber work) is presented annually by Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies to recognize individual faculty members or teams of faculty and staff who integrate technology in teaching and learning. The award celebrates innovative, student-centered approaches.*

## RECIPIENTS

### EXCELLENCE AS AN INDIVIDUAL

**Montasir Mahgoub Abbas**

Professor  
Civil Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

### EXCELLENCE AS AN INDIVIDUAL

**Rodrigo Sarlo**

Assistant Professor  
Civil Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering



## **SPORN AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING INTRODUCTORY SUBJECTS**

*Sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Virginia Tech Academy for Teaching Excellence, the Sporn Award for Teaching Introductory Subjects is presented annually to a Virginia Tech faculty member to recognize excellence in teaching introductory-level courses. Nominations are received from students. Recipients are selected by a committee comprised of student representatives and a faculty advisor who was the previous year's award winner. Recipients are inducted into the university's Academy of Teaching Excellence.*

### **RECIPIENT**

**Steve Trost**

Collegiate Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
Pamplin College of Business

## STAFF CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Created in 2011 to recognize retiring staff members, the Staff Career Achievement Award is presented annually to up to five individuals who have distinguished themselves through exemplary performance and service during their university career. Nominees must have worked a minimum of ten years at Virginia Tech.*

### RECIPIENTS

#### John E. Beach

Director of Utilities and Strategic Initiatives  
FS-AVP for Facilities Operations  
VP Campus Planning and Facilities

#### Debra K. Lowe

Shift Leader  
Dining Services-West End  
Vice President for Student Affairs

#### Linda B. Fontaine

Executive Secretary Senior  
Department of History  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences



## Eric T. Montgomery

Police Lieutenant  
Operations and Administration  
Virginia Tech Police Department

## Margie B. Murray

Special Events Coordinator  
President's Office

## Sharon E. Sible

Laboratory Specialist  
Biological Sciences  
College of Science

## MCCOMAS STAFF LEADERSHIP AWARD

*The McComas Staff Leadership Award recognizes non-student wage and staff (classified and university) employees who regularly demonstrate the behaviors of a strong leader in support of the goals of the university, college or Vice President area, or department.*

### RECIPIENT

Angela Webb

Academic Programs and Event Coordinator  
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

## GOVERNOR'S HONOR AWARD

*The Governor's Honor Award was created in 2018 to recognize employees of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Governor's Honor Awards are a way to tell the story of the valuable and important work being done by state employees who make a difference in their workplaces.*

### RECIPIENT

Joe Griffitts

Director  
Hokie Passport Services



# ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Education is presented annually to a Virginia Tech faculty or staff member who has had a significant impact on international education at the university. Selection is based upon contributions to the internationalization of Virginia Tech, the impact on students, the impact on the campus and community, and the significance and sustainability of the initiative.*

## RECIPIENT

Jeffrey Alwang

Professor  
Agricultural Applied Economics  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences



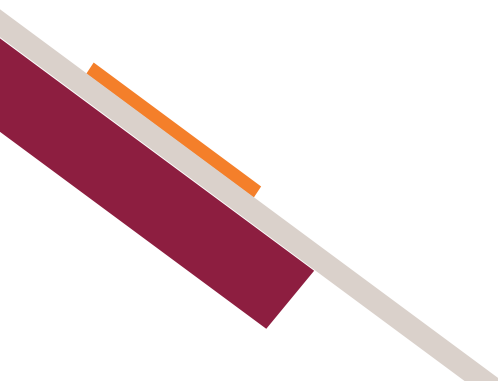
# ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Outreach is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has had a significant impact on international outreach at Virginia Tech. Selection is based on contributions to the internationalization of Virginia Tech, global impact, significance of the project, and sustainability of the project.*

## RECIPIENT

Thomas Archibald

Associate Professor  
Agriculture Leadership Community Education  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences





## ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in International Research is presented annually to a faculty or staff member who has had a significant impact on international research at Virginia Tech. Selection is based on contributions to the internationalization of Virginia Tech, global impact, significance of the project, and sustainability of the project.*

### RECIPIENT

Carol A. Mullen

Professor  
School of Education  
College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

## ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Alumni Award for Excellence in Research is presented annually to as many as two Virginia Tech faculty members who have made outstanding contributions in the area of research. Alumni, students, faculty, and staff may nominate candidates for the award.*

### RECIPIENTS

Kevin J. Boyle

Professor  
Willis Blackwood Real Estate Director  
Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics  
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Amy Pruden

Professor of Psychology  
Department of Civil Environmental Engineering  
College of Engineering

