2021
FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS
WELCOME
to the 21st Annual Faculty/Staff Awards
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
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

Jarrod 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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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. Fountaine
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
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
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