

2023 HBCU/MSI RESEARCH SUMMIT AT VIRGINIA TECH



Sunday, November 12 -
Tuesday, November 14



The Inn at Virginia Tech
Skelton Conference Center
901 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA

WWW.GRADUATESCHOOL.VT.EDU



A VISION OF INSTITUTIONAL
COLLABORATIONS AND
SUPPORT OF RESEARCH,
RESOURCES, AND
RECRUITMENT: VIRGINIA TECH
AND BEYOND



GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH.

Welcome to the 2023 Virginia Tech HBCU/MSI



The summit provides an opportunity for faculty, students, and administrators to explore research opportunities and potential collaborations between historically black colleges/universities (HBCUs), minority serving institutions (MSIs), and Virginia Tech. Through these partnerships we seek to enhance the quality of research and graduate education by placing equity, diversity, and inclusion at the forefront of our pursuit of excellence. Our goals in hosting the annual research summit include:

- **Research:** Fostering cross-institutional research partnerships between HBCUs, MSIs and Virginia Tech.
- **Recruitment:** Providing current HBCU and MSI students with a preview of Virginia Tech's graduate programs, allowing Virginia Tech graduate programs a key opportunity to recruit prospective students if graduate pathways are not available or aligned with student's interests at their current/home institution.
- **Degree Partnerships:** Facilitate discussions about the feasibility of shared degree programs between the HBCUs and MSIs and Virginia Tech programs.



Dr. Aimée Surprenant
Dean for Graduate Education

GRADUATE SCHOOL WELCOME

Aimée M. Surprenant, PhD, serves as Dean for Graduate Education and holds an academic appointment as tenured Professor in the Department of Psychology at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. She plans to build on past successes in supporting a strong, diverse and inclusive graduate community; supporting the development and expansion of the innovative Graduate Life Center (GLC); and championing the academic initiative known as Transformative Graduate Education (TGE), including the global perspectives and preparing the future professoriate programs.

MEET THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Catherine L. Cotrupi
Interim Assistant Dean and Director



Whitley Johnson
Graduate Assistant (PhD Student)



Tian Meng
Graduate Assistant (PhD Student)



Gavin Hough
Graduate Assistant (Master's Student)

The Diversity, Inclusion, and Strategic Partnerships team focuses on building community for graduate students and on providing support as they get acclimated and adjusted to their graduate programs/certificates. We do this through the development of inclusive and diverse programming to meet students' needs. We focus on the importance of creating and growing communities by providing frequent opportunities for students to participate in welcoming environments to maximize their success and degree completion.



SUNDAY 12

Arrival to Blacksburg, Virginia

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Luggage Storage
LOCATION: DRILLFIELD

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration
LOCATION: LATHAM FOYER

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Opening Dinner with Networking Panel Discussion: "The Impact of HBCUs/MSIs, how they have shaped your lives and propelled your career in academia or industry."
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

Optional Events

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Refreshment Break
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Campus Tours (30 minute frequency)
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Diversity Scholar Showcase
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Freshen Up for Dinner
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

Event Program

MONDAY 13

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Networking Breakfast
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Graduate Admissions and Student Funding Opportunities
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

ETS GRE Prep Workshop
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

"Wearing the Corporate Unifrom"
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

12:00 PM - 12:45 PM

Networking Lunch
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Juneteenth Scholars Showcase
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY HALL

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Track Time
STEM Track - "Aero Managing"
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Break

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

HBCU/MSI Student Panel
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Research & Recruitment Showcase
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM HALLWAY

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Networking Dinner and Speaker Session
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Optional Events
Community Game Night with Sounds by VTDITC
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM
Career & Professional Development Tour & Iris Photobooth Headshots
Transportation Provided

TUESDAY 14

8:00 AM - 08:45 AM

Breakfast & Dean's Welcome
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Meet hosts and transportation to sites

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Departmental Visit with Program of Interest

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Lunch With Host Department

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Return to the Inn

Departure from Blacksburg, Virginia

Sunday, November 12-
Tuesday, November 14

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Blacksburg, VA



SUNDAY 12

Arrival to Blacksburg, Virginia

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Luggage storage
LOCATION: DRILLFIELD

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Registration
LOCATION: LATHAM FOYER

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Kick-Off Dinner with Networking & Panel Discussion: "The Impact of HBCUs/MSIs, how they have shaped your lives and propelled your career in academia or industry."
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

Optional Events

2:30 PM - 4:00 PM

Refreshment Break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Campus Tours (30 minute frequency)
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Diversity Scholar Showcase
LOCATION: SOLITUDE ROOM

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Faculty Mixer
LOCATION: CASCADES ROOM

Event Program

MONDAY 13

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Networking Breakfast
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Funding Opportunities:
Humanities, Social Sciences and education
LOCATION: CASCADES ROOM
Life Sciences
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY HALL

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM

Break

10:15 AM - 11:30 AM

Discussion: Intentional and Authentic Partnership Development - What do partner institutions want and need from Virginia Tech?
LOCATION: CASCADES ROOM

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Break

12:00 PM - 12:40 PM

Networking Lunch
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Juneteenth Scholars Showcase
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY HALL

2:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Break

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Track Time
STEM Track
LOCATION: CASCADES ROOM
Humanities & Social Sciences Track
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY HALL

4:00 PM - 4:15 PM

Break

4:15 PM - 5:15 PM

ICTAS Session
LOCATION: CASCADES ROOM AND ZOOM

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Research and Recruitment Showcase
LOCATION: LATHAM HALLWAY

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Networking Dinner and Speaker Session
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

TUESDAY 14

8:00 AM - 8:45 AM

Breakfast and Dean's Welcome
LOCATION: LATHAM BALLROOM

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Meet hosts and transportation to sites

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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Lunch with Host Department

Departure from Blacksburg, Virginia

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STUDENT EVENTS

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HOSTS AND PANEL MEMBERS

SUNDAY, NOV 12

Opening Dinner

Moderator



Dr. Ellington Graves

Associate Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion

Panelists



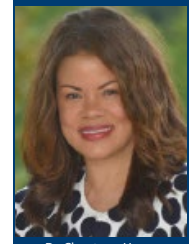
Dr. Jay Northern

Assistant Principal Director
Strategic Deterrence and Defense
The Aerospace Corporation



Dr. DeAnna Katey

Director
Undergraduate Student Programs
College of Engineering



Dr. Chontrese Hayes

Assistant Dean
Graduate Student Academic
Affairs and Student Success | Northern Virginia

MONDAY, NOV 13

Grad Admission and Student Funding Opportunities



Dr. Janice Austin

Assistant Dean and Director
of Graduate Admissions and Academic Progress



Monica Hunter

Director
Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program

GRE Prep Workshop ETS



Dr. Jack Klett

ETS

STUDENT EVENTS

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MONDAY, NOV 13

Wearing the Corporate Uniform



Mr. Bernard Jefferson
Associate Director
Electronics and Power Systems Department
The Aerospace Corporation



Casey Jones
MS Student
VT Engineering

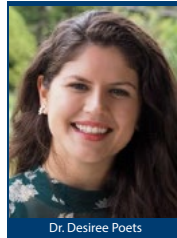
Juneteenth Scholars Panel Showcase



Dr. Amaryah Armstrong
Assistant Professor
Department of Religion and Culture



Dr. Marcus Johnson
Professor
School of Education



Dr. Desiree Poets
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science



Dr. Geovani Ramirez
Assistant Professor
Department of English

Track Time (STEM) Aero Managing



Mr. Bernard Jefferson
Associate Director
Electronics and Power Systems Department
The Aerospace Corporation



Mr. Jim Fishenden
General Manager
Advanced Technology Division
The Aerospace Corporation



GRADUATE SCHOOL
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STUDENT EVENTS

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MONDAY, NOV 13

HBCU/MSI Student Panel

Moderator



Nina Ha

Associate Vice Provost for Diversity
and Inclusion

Panelists



Antonio Carrington

Student



Michelle Ausman

Student



Sean Chambers

Student



Gavin Hough

Student

Networking Dinner and Speaker Session



Dr. Matt Cowley

Executive Director

VT Career and Professional Development



GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH.

FACULTY EVENTS

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2023 HBCU/MSI RESEARCH SUMMIT AT VIRGINIA TECH

HOSTS AND PANEL MEMBERS

MONDAY, NOV 13

Opening Dinner

Moderator



Dr. Ellington Graves

Associate Vice Provost for Diversity
and Inclusion

Panelists



Dr. Jay Northern

Assistant Principal Director
Strategic Deterrence and Defense
The Aerospace Corporation



Dr. DeAnna Katey

Director
Undergraduate Student Programs
College of Engineering

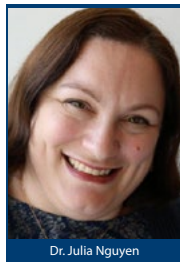


Dr. Chontrese Hayes

Assistant Dean
Graduate Student Academic
Affairs and Student Success | Northern Virginia

Funding Opportunities

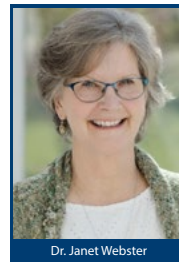
Humanities, Social Sciences and Education



Dr. Julia Nguyen

Senior Program Officer
National Endowment for Humanities

Life Sciences



Dr. Janet Webster

Director, Proposal Development & Pre-Award
Proposal Advisor
Fralin Life Sciences Institute



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SUNDAY, NOV 12

Discussion: Intentional and Authentic Partnership Development

Moderator



Monica Hunter

Director

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program

GlycoMIP Partnership Panelists



Dr. Maren Roman

Associate Professor

Department of Sustainable Biomaterials
Virginia Tech



Dr. Alan Esker

Professor, Graduate Program Director

Department of Chemistry
Virginia Tech



Dr. Natalie Arnett

Associate Professor

College of Engineering
FAMU-FSU



Dr. Jesse Edwards III

Professor

Department of Chemistry
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University



Dr. Sanket Deshmukh

Associate Professor

Department of Chemical
Engineering
Virginia Tech



Dr. Valerie Welborn

Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry
Virginia Tech

Juneteenth Scholars Showcase



Dr. Amaryah Armstrong

Assistant Professor

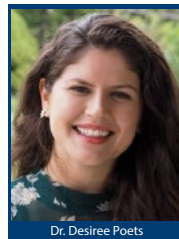
Department of Religion and Culture



Dr. Marcus Johnson

Professor

School of Education



Dr. Desiree Poets

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science



Dr. Geovani Ramirez

Assistant Professor

Department of English



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2023 HBCU/MSI RESEARCH SUMMIT AT VIRGINIA TECH

SUNDAY, NOV 12

Track Time

STEM Track



Dr. Jay Northern

Assistant Principal Director
Strategic Deterrence and Defense
The Aerospace Corporation



Dr. Josh Kittle

General Manager
Advanced Technology Division
The Aerospace Corporation

Liberal Arts Track

Social Media and Public Relations



Dr. Nneka Logan

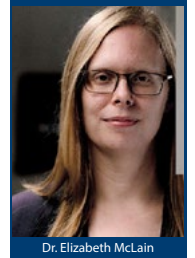
Associate Professor
School of Communication
Virginia Tech

Disability Tech Project



Dr. Ashley Shew

Associate Professor
Department of Science, Technology, and Society
Virginia Tech



Dr. Elizabeth McLain

Instructor of Musicology
School of Performing Arts
Virginia Tech

Public Interest Technology



Dr. Sylvester Johnson

Professor and Director
Center for Humanities
Virginia Tech

Human Dimensions of Infectious Disease



Dr. Tom Ewing

Professor of History
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research
Virginia Tech

Networking Dinner and Speaker Session



Dr. Matt Cowley

Executive Director
VT Career and Professional Development

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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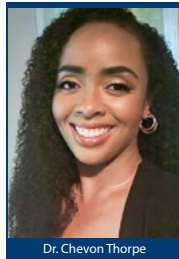
2023 HBCU/MSI RESEARCH SUMMIT AT VIRGINIA TECH

College of Arts, Architecture and Design (CAAD)



Dr. Takiyah Amin
Director
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)



Dr. Chevon Thorpe
Assistant Dean
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE)



Dr. Maryam Kamra
Director
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

College of Engineering (COE)



Dr. Kaiya Jennings
Assistant Director
Graduate Student Programs

College of Engineering (COE)



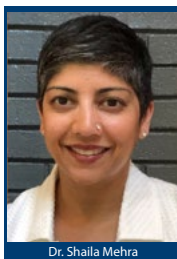
Dr. Wayne Scales
Professor
ECE

College of Science (COS)



Dr. Estrella Johnson
Assistant Dean
Inclusion and Diversity
Department of Mathematics

College of Liberal Arts and Hu- man Sciences (CLAHS)



Dr. Shaila Mehra
Assistant Dean
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS)



Dr. Gena Chandler
Associate Professor and Associate Chair
Department of English

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS)



Dr. Katharine Cleland
MA Program Director and Director of Graduate
Studies
Department of English

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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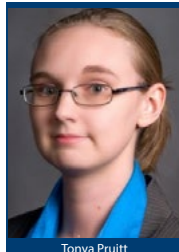
2023 HBCU/MSI RESEARCH SUMMIT AT VIRGINIA TECH

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS)



Dr. Tom Ewing
Associate Dean and Professor
Department of History

Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS)



Tonya Pruitt
Assistant Director
NanoEarth

Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS)



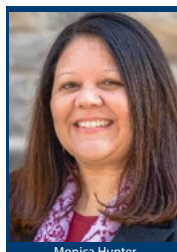
Chris Tysor
Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator

Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS)



Sylvianne Velasquez
Diversity and Outreach Coordinator
NanoEarth

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP)



Monica Hunter
Director
Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program

Macromolecules Innovation Institute (MMI)



Dr. Kim Felix
Graduate Program Administrator and Director
REU Program

Office for Inclusion & Diversity (OID)



Kimberly Clark
Director
Black Cultural Center

Office for Inclusion & Diversity (OID)



Dr. Erica Cooper
Assistant Provost of Faculty Diversity

Office for Inclusion & Diversity (OID)



Dr. Nina Ha
Director,
Asian Cultural Engagement Center

PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Office for Inclusion & Diversity (OID)



Dr. Zachary Mackey
Faculty STEM Specialist and
Fralin Visiting Researcher

Pamplin College of Business (PCOB)



A'ne Dalton
Special Projects Manager for Communications
and Events

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine



Garry Morgan II
Director
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

VT National Security Institute (VTNSI)



Dr. John Gilbert
Research Assistant Professor

Graduate School



Ananya Prakash
Graphic Designer and
MEng Computer Science Student

The Graduate School Office of Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Partnerships

WOULD LOVE TO THANK OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

SPONSORS



PARTNERS (in alphabetical order)

Career & Professional Development (CPD)

Center for Biostatistics and Health Data Science (CBHDS)

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)

College of Arts Architecture, and Design (CAAD)

College of Engineering (COE)

College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences (CLAHS)

College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE)

College of Science (COS)

Cultural & Community Centers (CCCs)

Digging in the Crates: Hip Hop Studies at Virginia Tech (VT DITC)

Educational Testing Service (ETS)

Graduate School

Innovation Campus

Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science (ICTAS)

Macromolecules Innovation Institute (MMI)

Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program (MAOP)

NanoEarth

Office for Inclusion & Diversity (OID)

Pamplin College of Business (PCOB)

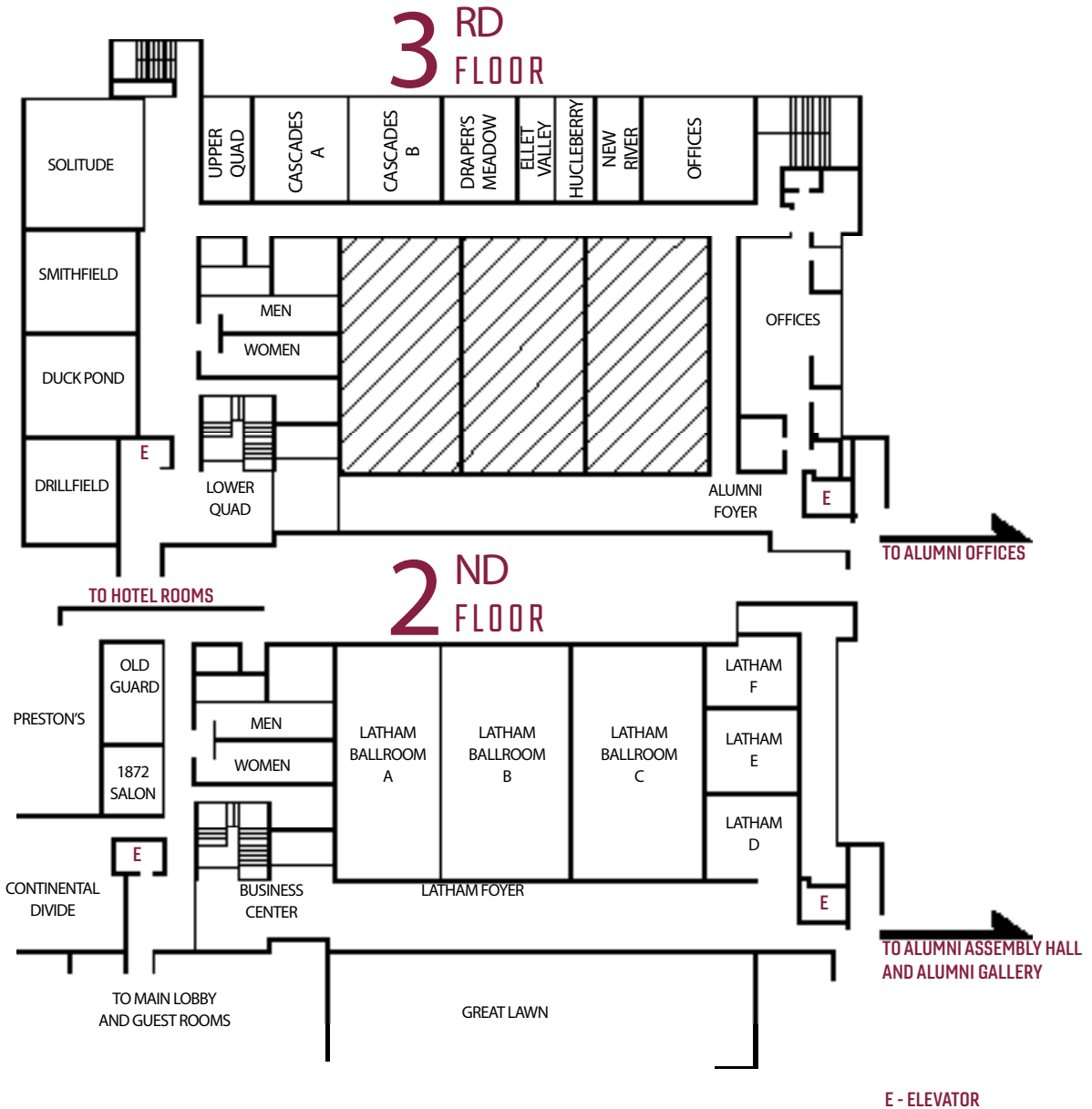
Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health (TBMH)

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

VT National Security Institute (VTNSI)



GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH.



Hotel Layout

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

SMART WAY BUS SCHEDULE

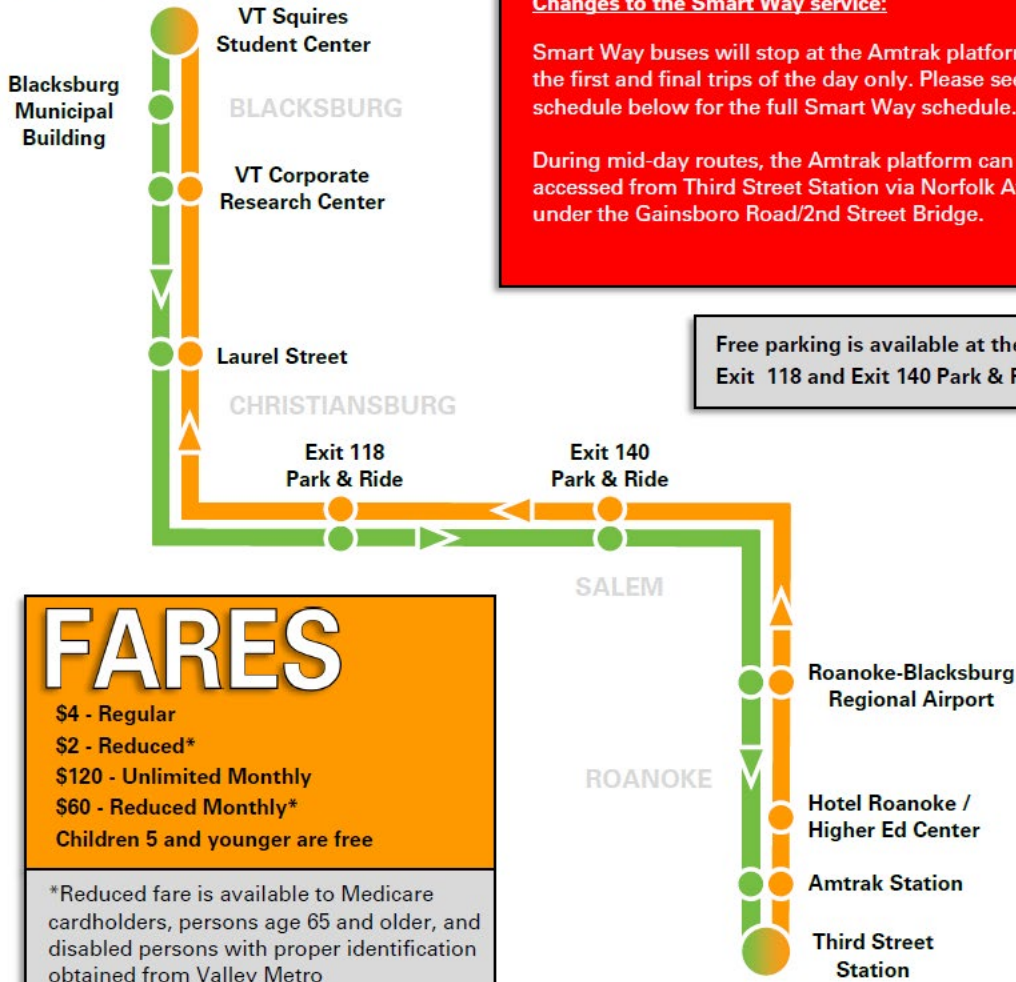
(effective July 11, 2022)

Changes to the Smart Way service:

Smart Way buses will stop at the Amtrak platform on the first and final trips of the day only. Please see schedule below for the full Smart Way schedule.

During mid-day routes, the Amtrak platform can be accessed from Third Street Station via Norfolk Ave under the Gainsboro Road/2nd Street Bridge.

Free parking is available at the Exit 118 and Exit 140 Park & Rides



FARES

- \$4 - Regular
- \$2 - Reduced*
- \$120 - Unlimited Monthly
- \$60 - Reduced Monthly*
- Children 5 and younger are free

*Reduced fare is available to Medicare cardholders, persons age 65 and older, and disabled persons with proper identification obtained from Valley Metro

TRANSIT CONNECTIONS

Blacksburg Transit: Exit 118, Laurel St., Corporate Research Center, Squires Student Center, Blacksburg Municipal Building

Greyhound: Third Street Station

Radford Transit: Squires Student Center

VA Breeze: Exit 118, Exit 140

Valley Metro: Third Street Station, Airport

SmartWay Bus Schedule

Link to full schedule: [Here](#)

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