



OFFICE FOR INCLUSION
AND DIVERSITY
VIRGINIA TECH.

FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity's vision is a just and inclusive community that welcomes, encourages, and supports individuals who desire to contribute to and benefit from the institution's mission of learning, discovery, and engagement.

Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for capacity building across the institution by promoting a) sustainable institutional transformation and accountability; b) representational diversity; c) an inclusive, welcoming, affirming, and accessible safe campus climate; and d) the integration of issues of equity and identity into the academic mission.

Welcome Message from Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity



Dear Community,

Thank you all for your drive, compassion, and commitment to the work of building an equitable, welcoming, safe, and accessible community.

As we begin the 2021 academic year, we strive to regain a sense of normalcy while remaining vigilant. One lesson the past 18 months has taught us is that while we make progress and push toward new horizons, we cannot become complacent or take for granted the difficult work that has brought us to where we are. Through these challenges, we must become more resolute in our commitment to a safe and equitable world that starts here at Virginia Tech.

The work of Inclusion & Diversity embodies the spirit of our university motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve.) Our commitment to and our anchoring [Principles of Community](#) allow

us to elevate the conversation by uplifting different ideas, identities, values, beliefs, and cultures as part of our commitment to the university, the students, and to the Blacksburg community we serve.

At Virginia Tech, we understand that diversity of all types enriches the student experience and enables the next generation of Hokies to create a more just and inclusive world beginning with their experience on campus. We must continue to build space and trust, to push away complacency, and to have the difficult conversations that lead to enduring and lasting change.

Thank you all for your enduring commitment to this work both on our campus and in the world around us.

Wishing you a happy, healthy academic year!

Menah Pratt-Clarke
Vice President for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

The Office for Inclusion & Diversity Welcomes Six New Colleagues

The Office for Inclusion & Diversity welcomes six new team members who will assist in the areas of Public Relations & Communications; Student Opportunities & Achievement Resources (SOAR); Diversity Education, and Solitude.

The units are very excited to welcome these individuals who will assist in supporting, developing, and promoting the work we do in the diversity and inclusion space, internally and externally.

Public Relations and Communications welcomes Renée Stewart as Associate Director of Public Relations & Communications.

Renée is a graduate of Ohio University where she holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies and a Master of Science in Organizational Communication. Ohio University is also where she made the leap to working in higher education after beginning her career in communication sales. At Ohio University, she assisted in the development of a new office for Corporate and Foundation Relations as well as facilitated the university's inaugural Giving Day.

Renée will report to Director of Public Relations & Communications, Hallema Sharif.

Renée can be reached by emailing her at rstewart20@vt.edu

Diversity Education welcomes Michelle Carter as Director of Diversity Engagement and Victoria Ferguson as Interim Program Coordinator for Solitude.

Michelle holds a master's degree from West Virginia University and is currently pursuing her doctoral degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in adult learning.

Most recently, Michelle was part of the career services department at the Virginia Commonwealth College of Engineering. She served as an instructor for a professional development internship and co-op class. Prior to joining VCU, she worked as a non-profit executive in rural southwestern Virginia.

Michelle will report to Dr. Michele Deramo, Associate Vice Provost of Diversity Education and Engagement.

Michelle can be reached by emailing her at mdcarter1@vt.edu

Victoria is an enrolled member of the Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia. Victoria is a graduate of Marshall University and has a background in researching science methodologies to support historical information. She has spent 25 years seeking first-person documentation and archaeological information to help explain and support theories on the daily living habits of the Eastern Siouan populations up through the early European colonization period. She has written and presented work at Virginia Tech, Washington and Lee, Sweet Briar College, James Madison University, and a number of archaeological conferences.

Victoria can be reached by emailing her at victoriaperfer76@vt.edu

Student Opportunities & Achievement Resources (SOAR) welcomes

Luisa Burgos Rivero, as Associate Director; Meshay Long, as Assistant Director, and Seth Sterlin, as Assistant Director.

Luisa earned her bachelor's from James Madison University and her master's from Virginia Tech. She has served in several roles at Virginia Tech including working for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions; Student Success Center; Cultural and Community Centers, the Graduate School Office of Recruitment, Diversity, and Inclusion, and the Office for Inclusion and Diversity. She is an advocate and liaison for underserved and marginalized populations. Her research and career interests focus on advocacy, equity, access, summer programs, and retention.

Luisa can be reached by emailing her at luisab93@vt.edu

Meshay holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master of Art in Higher Education Administration, with a concentration in Diversity and Social Justice from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Meshay is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee and was raised in Cherokee, NC. Her passion for supporting underrepresented students to and through college started while in undergrad. During this time, Meshay worked in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to implement a variety of programs to promote college exposure to both middle and high school students. Following graduation, she moved to Michigan for graduate school. Meshay worked in a first-year experience office overseeing bystander intervention and healthy relationships workshops to help students successfully transition to the university and community; she also worked directly with a school to launch their 5-year DEI strategic plan, primarily managing program evaluation and assessment.

Meshay can be reached by emailing her at meshayl@vt.edu

Seth is an alumnus of Virginia Tech after completing his undergraduate degree in Chemistry back in 2012, and a master's degree from Valdosta State University (GA), where he also started his professional career after graduating in 2015. Prior to Virginia Tech, Seth served as Assistant Director of Housing and Residential Life at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Seth can be reached by emailing him at ss1102@vt.edu

PROGRAM/EVENT UPDATES

DIVERSITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

InclusiveVT Week

VIRGINIA TECH™
Where Everyone Belongs
INCLUSIVE VT WEEK 2021

SPEAKER SERIES

September 7th @ 10:30am
North End Center Room 2420
Event will also be live streamed on InclusiveVT YouTube channel.

Fostering College Belonging: Practical strategies for fostering student success by strengthening students' sense of belonging, with a focus on first-generation college students, presented by Dr. Lisa Nunn, author of College Belonging.

Learn more about Dr. Nunn at the link below
https://www.sandiego.edu/directory/biography.php?profile_id=315



Dr. Lisa Nunn

September 9th @ 10:30am
North End Center Room 2420
Event will also be live streamed on InclusiveVT YouTube channel.

Presentation by Dr. Fred Bonner II, author of Square Pegs and Round Holes: Alternative Approaches to Diverse College Student Development Theory

Learn more about Dr. Bonner
<https://drfredbonner.com/about/>



Dr. Fred Bonner II

September 10th @ 12pm
<https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/85620363362>

Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Campus presented by Dr. Margaret Price, author of Mad At School, Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Academic Life.

Learn more about Dr. Price at the link below
<https://margaretprice.wordpress.com/about-margaret/>



Dr. Margaret Price



INCLUSIVEVT

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity hosted InclusiveVT Week, a weeklong series of events honoring these values, from September 7-10, 2021. The main event of InclusiveVT Week was its Speaker Series which welcomed three distinguished speakers from across disciplines, Dr. Lisa Nunn, Dr. Fred Bonner II, and Dr. Margaret Price.

On September 7 at the North End Center. Dr. Lisa Nunn presented on Fostering College Belonging: Practical strategies for fostering student success by strengthening students' sense of belonging, with a focus on first-generation college students." Professor Nunn earned her B.A. in Literature and Theater from Whittier College in 1997. She earned her M.A. in Sociology in 2005 and her Ph.D in Sociology in 2009 from the University of California, San Diego. She currently serves as a Professor in Sociology and as Director of

the Center for Educational Excellence at University of California, San Diego. You can view her presentation by clicking [here](#).

Dr. Fred Bonner II, author of Square Pegs and Round Holes: Alternative Approaches to Diverse College Student Development Theory, presented on September 9 at the North End Center. Dr. Fred A. Bonner, II is Professor and Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership and Counseling and Founding Executive Director of the Minority Achievement, Creativity and High-Ability (MACH-III) Center at Prairie View A&M University. You can view his presentation by clicking [here](#).

The last speaker of the InclusiveVT Week Speaker Series was Dr. Margaret Price, author of Mad At School, Rhetorics of Mental Disability and Academic Life. Dr. Price is an associate professor of English at [The Ohio State University](#), specializing in disability studies and rhetoric/composition/literacy. Dr. Price presented on 'Creating an Inclusive and Accessible Campus'.

In addition to the InclusiveVT Week Speaker Series, other events took place campus-wide. To learn more, click [here](#).

For more information on InclusiveVT Week click [here](#).

Diversity Summit

Diversity Summit delivers a message of hope for the 2021 academic year

The sixth annual Diversity Summit was held Wednesday, August 11th in the Latham Ballroom at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center. There were also specific segment of the program feature on the InclusiveVT [YouTube](#) channel for those virtual participants.

The 2021 Diversity Summit is an InclusiveVT Touchpoint Event sponsored by the Office for Inclusion and Diversity. The one-day summit brings together campus-wide diversity stakeholders to learn about and discuss objectives for the coming academic year. This year, more than 400 participants gathered in-person and online to reinvigorate and situate Virginia Tech's collective efforts toward diversity strategic goals for the upcoming academic year.

The day was opened with a welcome message from Dr. Michele Deramo, associate vice provost of diversity education and engagement, and Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for strategic affairs and vice provost for inclusion and diversity.

The summit topics included:

Keynote address from Dr. Claude Mason Steele,
"Why are Campuses so Tense? Building Trust for an Inclusive Campus";
Differential Impacts Conversations: Pandemic Reflections;
A panel on Understanding the Bias Reporting Process;
Meet and Greet: White Allies as Transformational Leaders.

In his keynote address, Dr. Claude Mason Steele stated that while work of diversity is still young, much progress has been made. He sees the critical work of building trust to be a cornerstone of "easing tensions, moving toward progress, and remedying harmful stereotypes."

In a message centered on hope, Dr. Pratt-Clarke invoked the words of George Bernard Shaw.

“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world: the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.”

Dr. Pratt-Clarke invites each of us to envision a future of progress at Virginia Tech, to recommit to the work, to have hope for the future, and to be those unreasonable people.

To view the summit on the InclusiveVT YouTube Channel, click [here](#).

To receive information from any of the Diversity Summit sessions, please contact Michele Deramo at deramo@vt.edu.

To learn more about the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and its upcoming programs, please visit <https://www.inclusive.vt.edu/>, or call 540-231-7500.

As Virginia Tech celebrates 150 years, the oldest structure on campus faces a bright new future

As the oldest standing structure on campus, Solitude boasts a long history with a painful past. However, under the direction of newly hired Victoria Persinger Ferguson, there is a fresh hope in reimagining the future of this historic site.

The Solitude house was originally built in the 1840's and was then owned by the Preston family who enslaved the Fraction, McNorton, and Saunders families on the plantation. Adjacent to the Solitude house is a smaller dwelling, dedicated in 2019 as the Fraction Family House, where those African American families lived. The Blacksburg campus is located on land once stewarded by the Monacan and Tutelo peoples. This land was acquired through the Morrill Act of 1862, the legislation responsible for the creation of the land grant system, as well as the displacement of indigenous people whose land was seized for this purpose.

The property was later purchased by the Board of Visitors of the Virginia Agriculture and Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech) in 1873. Over the years, it has been used for a variety of purposes and most recently was affiliated with the Appalachian Studies program. The house and its outbuildings are on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

In March 2021, the Office of the Provost assumed oversight for the Solitude and Fraction houses and designated that the Office for Inclusion and Diversity (OID) manage programming and use of the facilities.

This reimagining enlarges the mission of Solitude beyond its association with a single family, to a place for curating, displaying, preserving, and interpreting artifacts of the lives impacted by this tri-racial zone. It also serves as a space for curricular innovations and community-engaged research focused on equity and social justice, beginning with the unfinished conversations around Virginia Tech's own incomplete history. Tasked with overseeing this important development toward the future of the Blacksburg campus is Interim Program Coordinator Victoria Persinger Ferguson.

Victoria Persinger Ferguson is an enrolled member of the Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia. Victoria is a graduate of Marshall University and has a background in researching science methodologies to support historical information. She has spent 25 years seeking

first-person documentation and archaeological information to help explain and support theories on the daily living habits of the Eastern Siouan populations up through the early European colonization period. She has written and presented work at Virginia Tech, Washington and Lee, Sweet Briar College, James Madison University, and a number of archaeological conferences. You may glimpse her in two PBS documentaries: *Virginia Indians: Reclaiming our Heritage* and *Pocahontas Revealed*. She is the author of the children's book, *Dark Moon to Rising Sun* and continues to research and write historical works, including the recently completed nonfiction book, *Fan Me with a Brick*.

Victoria will be responsible for preserving the historic buildings and grounds, maintaining exhibitions and tours, coordinating programming in keeping with the Solitude-Fraction House mission in compliance with university regulations and the National Register of Historic Places, and ensuring compliance with usage and renovation restrictions imposed by National Register status with the assigned university building manager. She will be reporting to Michele Deramo, Associate Vice Provost of Diversity Education and Engagement.

This launch coincides with Virginia Tech's Sesquicentennial, with the Solitude and Fraction Houses opening to the public in the spring 2022.

FACULTY DIVERSITY

Future Faculty Diversity Program (FFDP)

Virginia Tech's Future Faculty Diversity Program (FFDP) is a rigorous three-day event for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral scholars interested in academic careers. Participants are chosen from a national pool of candidates who apply directly to the program and are matched with an interested department.

The Office for Inclusion and Diversity (OID) currently serves as the administrative base for the program, which draws a wonderfully diverse group of participants in terms of gender, race, and geographic region. Specifically, FFDP is designed to assist departments with identifying and recruiting talent from historically underrepresented domestic minority populations such as African Americans, Hispanics/Latinx, American Indian/Alaska Natives, and Pacific Islanders.

In fact, FFDP provides participants with an invaluable opportunity for professional development, as well as an opportunity to have candid discussions with department heads, deans, and early career faculty members about life in academia. As part of the experience, participants are hosted by a Virginia Tech department to tour research facilities, meet with current faculty to gain a greater awareness of research and teaching opportunities, discuss their career prospects and academic work, and present a research talk.

The program will take place on October 3-6, 2021 and will be in-person. Applications for this year's cohort are currently being reviewed.



OCTOBER 3-6, 2021

Application Deadline
August 15, 2021
www.inclusive.vt.edu



Class of 2020



INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY
VIRGINIA TECH

Faculty Women of Color in the Academy National Conference (FWCA)

VIRGINIA TECH OFFICE OF INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY PRESENTS THE 10TH ANNUAL

FACULTY WOMEN OF COLOR CONNECT EMPOWER SUPPORT IN THE ACADEMY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

► KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



ROXANE GAY



NICOLE HANNAH-JONES

APRIL 1 - 3, 2022
CRYSTAL GATEWAY MARIOTT
1700 S EADS ST.
ARLINGTON, VA 22202



► LEADERSHIP PANEL



DR. KA YEE C LEE



IRMA BECERRA



CAROLYN HODGES

This year's
conference
will also include:
Networking Socials,
Wellness Facilitations,
Vendors, Awards
Banquet, and
Workshops

► SCHOLARS CONVERSATION



BONNIE THORNTON DILL



RUTH ZAMBRANA

Submit your workshop proposal
starting **August 15th**

Early Bird Registration
opens **September 1st**

If you are interested in serving
on the local committee please
email us at fwca@vt.edu



INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY
VIRGINIA TECH



American Indian & Indigenous Community Center (AIICC)

The AIICC is saying goodbye to their Director Melissa Faircloth. Everyone involved with the center will miss Melissa and are thankful for all the labor she put into developing the many programs and presentations over the years.

The AIICC is co-sponsoring the “Welcome to Indian Country” performance at Moss Center on Wednesday September 22nd and Thursday September 23rd, 2020, at 7:00 PM. Students, faculty, and friends are encouraged to purchase tickets to these two performances.

The center is in the planning stage for Indigenous Peoples Day events. Programs will be held at various locations across campus on Oct. 11th, 2020. Stay tuned for more information.

The American Indian and Indigenous Community Center (AIICC) serves as a community gathering area and study space. You'll find the AIICC in room 122 of the Squires Student Center, just to the left of the Welcome Center on the first floor. For more information, click [here](#).

Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC)

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is a division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity. The ACEC's mission is to advocate for the Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) communities, including Virginia Tech faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We also aim to educate the campus community on issues centered around or related to our communities. All members of the campus and local community are welcome in the ACEC and can participate in the ACEC's events, programs, and activities. For more information, click [here](#).

Black Cultural Center (BCC)

In 1984, Black student leaders from the class of 1985 proposed the establishment of the Black Cultural Center to correlate with the increase in recruitment of black students. The BCC opened in 1991 in 126 Squires Student Center. The BCC is an important component of Virginia Tech's efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive campus. It is utilized by the campus community for educational programs, exhibits, meetings, and receptions. The BCC includes comfortable space for community building and for studying. For more information, click [here](#).

El Centro - Hispanic and Latinx Cultural and Community Center

El Centro is the Cultural and Community Center for the Latinx community at Virginia Tech. This is a support space for all the people that identify themselves as Latinos or Hispanos, for the people interested in our culture, and for all our allies. El Centro works with The Latinx Library, initiated by a 2015 Virginia Tech Graduate School Diversity Scholar now hosts over 500 texts in multiple languages for all ages. For more information, click [here](#).

LGBTQ+ Resource Center

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center aims to advance, through education and advocacy, the

rights and well-being of all Virginia Tech LGBTQ+ communities locally, across the Commonwealth of Virginia, and around the globe. We work to provide space, acknowledge and celebrate intersectionality, cultivate leadership, and engage in activism in the spirit of *Ut Prosim*. For more information, click [here](#).

PAST EVENTS

Black College Institute

In June of 2021, Virginia Tech hosted the fifth annual Black College Institute (BCI): an academic summer enrichment program inviting rising-junior and rising-senior high school student cohorts from underrepresented populations to campus.

Due to the pandemic, BCI was adapted to a virtual format this year. Despite this challenge, BCI had its most competitive year yet, receiving over 1,200 applicants; and yielded its largest cohort, with 520 students completing the program. Geographically, these students hailed from throughout the nation and across the globe.

“The students in this year’s cohort are high-achieving stars,” prides Dr. Crasha Townsend, Director of the Student Opportunities and Achievement Resources office (SOAR), and program lead for BCI. She adds, “They are student leaders, authors, athletes, activists, and academically competitive. We know they are future leaders; and within BCI, we want to foster their curiosity and pursuit of higher education, especially in their desire to come here to Virginia Tech.”

During this year’s program, participants of BCI were able to virtually meet with faculty and staff from each of Virginia Tech’s academic colleges, as well as representatives from the Office of Admissions, Financial Aid, Corps of Cadets, and other academic-focused programs. Through these interactions, students learn about different career fields, the admissions process, and college access, among many topics.

Another component of the BCI curriculum offers participants the opportunity to learn how to conduct collegiate-level research. This year, in the spirit of *Ut Prosim*, students worked in peer teams to produce a social justice-focused presentation to address and provide a service-solution a societal issue facing African American communities. The culmination of that work is showcased during closing ceremony of the program to an audience of participant families and university constituents. This year, students in the program also participated in a hands-on, scientific demonstration facilitated by Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech, using materials mailed to BCI participant residences.

A new component to this year’s program, called Sankofa Networking, included alumni engagement through panel discussion, which featured a range of professionals who offered advice, coaching, and insights on community, scholarship, and transitioning into the work force. This component compliments the student panel where dialogues focus on finding support and resources on campus, best academic practices, and tips for collegiate success, via insights from currently-enrolled VT students.

BCI is co-sponsored by the Office for Inclusion and Diversity and Office of Undergraduate Admissions, with the support of President Timothy Sands and Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity, who both were speakers during this year’s virtual opening ceremonies. The program fosters recruitment efforts as part of an institutional commitment to increase student diversity on campus by the year 2022.

Diverse Professionals Network (DPN)

President Sands kicks off the 2021 academic year by welcoming staff and faculty and the

President Tim Sands and his wife, Dr. Laura Sands along with Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, vice president for strategic affairs & diversity, hosted the first Diverse Professionals Network event of the 2021-2022 academic year. The 4th Annual Diverse Professionals Fall Gathering was held on Thursday, August 19th at the Holtzman Alumni Center with over 150 people in attendance.

Diverse Professionals Network (DPN) was established to allow diverse professionals the opportunity to share contacts, ideas, and socialize with one another. This kickoff event was an opportunity to meet and network with peers who work and live in the New River and Roanoke Valley area. There were over 150 people in attendance with many staying well past the close of the evening to enjoy music and mingling.

The group will host more networking and celebratory events throughout the academic year including a Rooftop Networking event on September 16th and a Jazz Brunch on MLK Day in January. Stay tuned for more information about joining this dynamic group of diverse professionals.

For more information on the Diverse Professionals Network visit the Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

VT UNFINISHED (SPRING 2021)

VT Unfinished with Female Pioneers

Hosted by:

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, VP for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

Panelists:

-Dr. La Verne Hairston Higgins

-Marguerite Harper Scott.

[Link here.](#)

VT Unfinished on Anti Racist Teaching

Hosted by:

Dr. Michele Deramo, Assistant Provost for Diversity Education

Panelists:

-Dr. Rosanna Breaux, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology

-Dr. Kwame Harrison, Edward S. Diggs Professor in Humanities

-Dr. Jacob Lahne, Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science & Technology

[Link here.](#)

VT Unfinished on APIDA/Asian International Concerns

Hosted By:

Tim Sands, President Virginia Tech

Menah Pratt-Clarke, Vice President for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

Panelists:

-Dr. Guru Ghosh, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs

-Dr. Nina Ha, Director of Asian Cultural Engagement Center

-Dr. Silas Cassinelli, Assistant Professor, English

-Jessica Nguyen, Asian American Student Union President.

[Link here.](#)

MAKING THE CHAIR FIT (SPRING 2021)

Making the Chair Fit with Virginia Tech's Latina Women Leaders

Hosted by:

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, VP for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

Featuring:

-Luisa Burgos, Senior Assistant Director, Undergraduate Admissions

-Dr. Dannette Gomez Beane, Assistant Vice Provost, Enrollment Management & Strategic Initiatives

-Dr. Luisa Havens Gerardo, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

[Link here.](#)

Making the Chair Fit: Talking with POC Award Recipients

Hosted by:

Alicia Cohen, Director of Diversity Programs and Director of Intercultural Engagement Center in the Office of Inclusion and Diversity

Panelists:

-Christine Tyson, ICTAS Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator,

-Bevlee Watford, Associate Dean Equity and Engagement, Director of CEED, and Dean of the College of Engineering.

[Link here.](#)

Making the Chair Fit with Rufus Elliott

Hosted by:

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, VP for Strategic Affairs & Diversity,

Panelist:

-Rufus Elliott, Monacan Indian Nation Tribal Citizen and Housing Director for the Chickahominy Indian Tribe. Rufus is Virginia Tech's first Monacan alumnus.

[Link here.](#)

Making the Chair Fit: APIDA Panel

Hosted by:

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, VP for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

Panelists:

-Dr. Jennifer Sano-Franchin, Associate Professor of English and Director of Professional and Technical Writing.

-Dr. Daniel Sui, Vice President for Research and Innovation.

-Dr. Vincent Wang, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, Faculty Fellow, Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) and Co-Chair, Virginia Tech APIDA Caucus.

-Jaclyn Marmol, School Board Staff Aide.

[Link here.](#)

Making the Chair Fit: LGBTQ+ Panel

Hosted by:

Dr. Menah Pratt-Clarke, VP for Strategic Affairs & Diversity

Panelists:

-Scott Beadle, Vice President, Human Resources for DavCo Restaurants


-Mark Weber, VT Class of 1987 BS Marketing Management and currently serving as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

-Nancy Kelly, Director of Nicholas Community Engagement & Events, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University.

[Link here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS


ACEC




THE ACEC PRESENTS

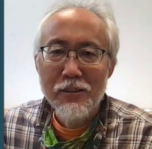
THE LEARNING LUNCH SERIES WITH DR. JIM TOKUHISA

SEPT. 13, 2021 @ 12 PM - 1 PM EST (HYBRID)
SQUIRES RM 140 | LIGHT REFRESHMENTS



**REGISTER
FOR FOOD:
RB.GY/PREELY**





Dr. Jim Tokuhisa is a faculty member in Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech. He teaches a three-credit intermediate-level course in cell biology and co-ordinates a six-credit laboratory course in biochemistry. He was born in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in the suburbs. He started a Bachelor's of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and finished it at the University of Illinois-Urbana in Botany. He did an undergraduate research project during his senior year. The experience inspired him to pursue a Ph.D. with a professor who worked at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After getting the Ph.D. he did postdoctoral research in Japan, Australia, Washington state, and Germany before getting a position at Virginia Tech. The goal of this postdoctoral research was to get a strong background in all aspects of how plants adapt to stresses of the physical and biological environment such as those created by global climate change.

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu between 9 am - 5 pm EST at least 10 business days prior to the event.
For questions, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu

EL CENTRO



EL CENTRO
ADVANCING THE VIRGINIA TECH LATINX COMMUNITY

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH TRADITIONALLY HONORS THE CULTURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOTH HISPANIC AND LATINX AMERICANS AS WE CELEBRATE HERITAGE ROOTED IN ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. DURING THIS MONTH EL CENTRO AND OUR PARTNERS, SHARE HISTORY, HERITAGE, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HISPANIC AND LATINX AMERICANS OF PAST AND PRESENT.

Save the Date

SEPT. 15 - OCT. 15

See you again in the Spring for the next Office for Inclusion and Diversity Newsletter!

*InclusiveVT: Committed to Ut Prosim (that I may serve) in the spirit of
community, diversity, and excellence.*

[Click here](#) to pledge your commitment to InclusiveVT!

Visit our Website

STAY CONNECTED:

