



CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
VIRGINIA TECH.

The On-Campus Internship Program Media Kit

By: Caileigh McLaine, Dianna Kim, Eve
Boggs, Isabelle Clavelli, & Kyra Schlueter



**CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
VIRGINIA TECH™

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Virginia Tech Magazine

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Suite 2100; Blacksburg, VA 24061

vtmag@vt.edu

FOR MORE

Dianna Kim

Public Relations Coordinator

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Dear Erica Stacy,

Virginia Tech lives by its motto *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) by providing Hokies with professional opportunities that will allow them to serve communities and claim their role after graduation. According to the First Destination After Undergraduate Degree Report, although “75% of 2018-2019 graduates *did* have career-related experience, 31% of graduates wished they had gotten *more* experience. The new on-campus internship program is striving to boost these numbers by providing more internship opportunities for students.

While many internships occur outside of campus, the on-campus internship program is unique because it will give students opportunities directly at Virginia Tech. Not only will this allow for easier accessibility to internships, but it will also give students the opportunity to professionally connect with the academic departments that they are interning under.

We believe that internships are most impactful when students are able to recognize how their experiences align with their career goals. Our internships are distinguished by the emphasis on learning and quality-driven experiences. All internships will include a learning component for students to reflect on their experiences.

Attached is a media kit containing a copy of this **cover letter**, a news release, a **fact sheet**, a **backgrounder** providing general program information, an **infographic** visually displaying program goals, an informational **brochure**, a **newsletter** including a student testimony, and **biography sheet** containing information about program leader Becca Scott and campus partner Vicki Pitstick.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. We are excited at the prospect of our on-campus internship program being featured in Virginia Tech Magazine!

Respectfully,
Dianna Kim

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ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT VIRGINIA TECH FACT SHEET

- Goals of the on-campus internship program include providing more experiences for students to have internships while in school, taking advantage of on-campus opportunities for students, ensuring quality internships within the program, navigating students through a quality internship experience, incorporating a learning component within the internships as part of experiential learning, and facilitating reflection on the learning component of the internship.
- According to the First Destination After Undergraduate Degree Report, 75% of 2018-2019 graduates answered that they **did** have any type of career-related experience during college.
- The First Destination After Undergraduate Degree Report also states that although “75% of 2018-2019 graduates **did** have experience, 31% of graduates wished they had gotten **more** experience.”
- The on-campus internship program hopes to implement 100 internships as part of its five-year plan.
- The expected launch date for the on-campus internship program is fall 2021 with the recruitment process beginning spring and summer 2021.
- By 2047, every student should have an experience that is career-driven as outlined in Virginia Tech’s Quality Enhancement Program (QEP).
- All internships under the on-campus internship program are expected to be paid. However, this goal will require funding.
- Students may receive credit for their internships on a departmental basis.
- Becca Scott is the associate director for professional development and experiential initiatives at Career and Professional Development. Individuals may contact Becca Scott at bhscott@vt.edu or 540-231-6241.



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Smith Career Center 0128
870 Washington Street SW
Blacksburg, VA 24061

NEWS RELEASE

October 12, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:
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DEVELOPMENT OF ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT VIRGINIA TECH
New Internship Program Kicks Off in Fall 2021

BLACKSBURG, Va. – Virginia Tech is developing a new on-campus internship program to launch in fall 2021 to help students reach their career goals. The program’s mission is focused on giving students the opportunity to expand their resumes with internship experience in their career field to increase their success after graduation.

“I’m excited about the on-campus internship program because a program like this will give us the opportunity to provide support to students while they apply their knowledge, develop professional skills, and reflect on what they are learning and how it connects with their future career goals,” said Becca Scott, associate director for Professional Development and Experiential Initiatives. “A structured internship program ensures that both students and supervisors have a great experience working together.”

-more-

Each internship program will be mentored by a major department at Virginia Tech. The mentors will transition class material into internship duties and responsibilities. There will be internships with paid and unpaid options. Students who participate must pay a \$75 fee and enroll as a zero-credit course, which will appear on transcripts. Applications will be available in spring 2020, and interviews will be scheduled in fall 2021.

“The on-campus internship will be a great example of student services and academic departments collaborating together to provide Virginia Tech students with career-focused experiential learning opportunities that will enable them to practice discipline-related, professional, and workplace skills and to integrate their classroom learning into real-world work environments,” said Vicki Pitstick, director of the Academy for Experiential Learning.

For more information, please contact Caileigh McLaine by phone at (123) 456-7890 or email at caileighm@vt.edu.

As the commonwealth’s most comprehensive university and a leading research institution, Virginia Tech offers about 280 [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) majors to more than 36,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students across the commonwealth and manages a research portfolio of more than \$531 million. The university fulfills its role as a land-grant institution by fostering a collaborative environment that integrates technology into all disciplines, so that the Virginia Tech community can serve as a force for positive change around the commonwealth, the country, and the world.

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BACKGROUNDER

The Office of Career and Professional Development's new on-campus internship program is set to launch in the spring semester of 2021 as a part of the experiential learning initiative. The program is being spearheaded by Becca Scott, associate director for professional development and experiential initiatives, and supported by Vicki Pitstick, director of the academy for experiential learning.

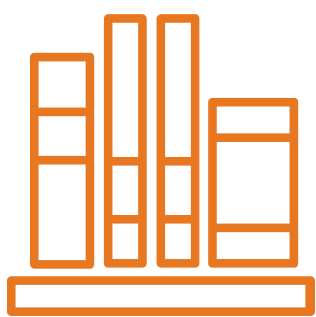
The main goal of the on-campus internship program is to provide quality experiential learning by facilitating a learning component with each internship. Students can develop meaningful connections with supervisors and work with them to achieve personal goals throughout the experience, ensuring that completion of the internship will leave students with more knowledge and a refined career path. On-campus employment opportunities increase student engagement, enhance interactions with others on campus and increase alumni affinity to the university.

The on-campus internship program hopes to implement 100 internships as a part of its five-year plan. This internship program is the foundation of the university's larger Beyond Boundaries mission set to be complete by 2047.

Contact:

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OUR SIX GOALS FOR THE ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



INCORPORATING...

a learning component within the internships as part of experiential learning.

FACILITATING...

reflection on the learning component of the internship.

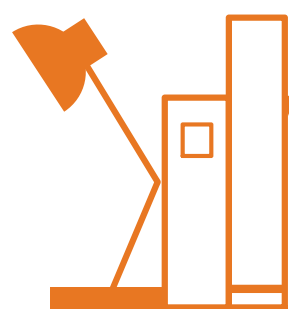


ENSURING...

quality internships within the program.

NAVIGATING...

students through the quality internship experience.

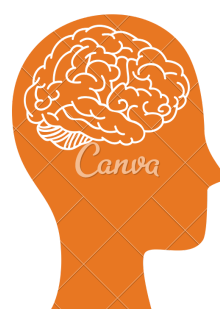


PROVIDING...

more experiences for students to have internships while in school.

TAKING...

advantage of on-campus opportunities for students.



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ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Career And Professional Development Newsletter



CLAIM YOUR ROLE

“The on-campus internship program will be a great example of student services and academic departments collaborating together to provide Virginia Tech students with career-focused experiential learning opportunities that will enable them to practice discipline-related, professional, and workplace skills and to integrate their classroom learning into real-world work environments,” said Vicki Pitstick, director of the Academy for Experiential Learning.

The experiential learning team at Virginia Tech has been working hard over the years to expand learning experiences outside of the classroom. It continue to provide undergraduate research opportunities, study abroad programs, service learning options and internships for students. It is the office of Career and Professional Development's pleasure to announce that we will be expanding these opportunities through the new on-campus internship program. [Cont. on Page 2]

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It is the goal of both the university and Career and Professional Development to assist students on their paths toward finding careers. Through this new program, we can provide students with the ability to gain valuable work experience while continuing their studies. When looking at data, it is clear that students do not always get what they want or need in order to achieve job experience and plan for their future. It is our goal to give students these opportunities they may otherwise not have access to. Not only will these internships assist in learning and career development, they can also provide better opportunities for students who do not regularly have access to transportation to participate in paid internships.

We hope that students will take advantage of this program and give themselves the chance to grow and learn on campus.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THIS PROGRAM

The overall mission of the new on-campus internship program is to provide Virginia Tech students with the chance to gain quality experience while working toward their career goals. The on-campus internship program will allow students to grow as learners and apply their knowledge in both future careers and the classroom. We are dedicated to providing support to our students and their successes and are thrilled to announce a program that will get our students one step closer to their dream job.

Incorporating an internship program on our campus is crucial for students to be successful after graduation. The workforce is a competitive environment to be thrown into if you are not properly prepared with quality credentials.

OUR SIX GOALS FOR THE ON-CAMPUS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



INCORPORATING...
a learning component within the internships as part of experiential learning.

FACILITATING...
reflection on the learning component of the internship.



ENSURING...
quality internships within the program.



NAVIGATING...
students through the quality internship experience.



PROVIDING...
more experiences for students to have internships while in school.



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advantage of on-campus opportunities for students.



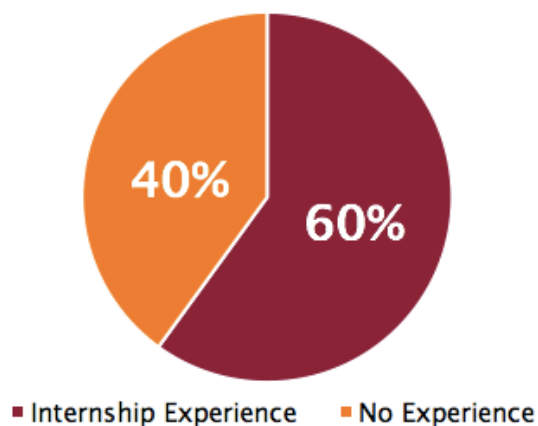
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Many students struggle with securing a job after college because they have no related experience on their resumes. Without notable experience and knowledge, students will encounter difficulty trying to secure career opportunities after graduation. Although, with help from the on-campus internship program, students will gain more confidence with job recruiters.

Percentage of Students with Internship Experience During College

(NACE's 2017 Student Survey Report)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: DIANNA KIM

Dianna Kim is a junior double majoring in public relations and professional and technical writing at Virginia Tech. She has been interning with 1901 Group, an IT firm located here in Blacksburg, since January 2020 as a technical writing intern. Take a firsthand look at how this Hokie used her internship experience to further her professional development during college.

Q: How did Virginia Tech play a role in your obtaining this internship?

A: "My faculty advisor in the English department, Laura Ferguson, forwarded an email from 1901 Group to all the students in the department. I immediately jumped at the opportunity and applied because I wanted an experience that would allow me to use classroom knowledge in a professional setting. I think it's great how Virginia Tech keeps in close contact with local Blacksburg companies and organizations. It makes it easier for students to gain professional experiences that are so crucial for our success."

Q: How has this internship better prepared you for life after graduation?

A: "I feel incredibly more assured stepping into the real world after college because of my internship."

Q: What has Virginia Tech done to ensure that there is a learning aspect to your internship?

A: "Fortunately, I was able to receive academic credit for my internship. The English department at Virginia Tech is great at making sure that I'm not just receiving credit, but that I'm also creating connections between both classroom and professional experiences."





WHAT'S NEXT?

The new on-campus internship program is a mere stepping stone in a much larger initiative of the university to expand and advance into the future. Virginia Tech's Beyond Boundaries program proposes that by 2047, university-wide learning will be rooted in experiential and purpose-driven learning, including internships. The goal is to create opportunities for every student across all departments to complete an internship as a graduation requirement. Pairing relevant employment opportunities with university studies is an invaluable experience for students. On-campus internships will provide our students with the experience they need to enter the workforce with confidence.

Timeline of Events

- **May 2015 - President Tim Sands initiated the Beyond Boundaries campus expansion program.**
- **Spring 2021 - On-campus internship applications will open.**
- **Fall 2021 - The interview process of internship applications begins.**
- **Fall 2021 - Following interviews, the first class of on-campus internships begin.**
- **2047 - Beyond Boundaries is proposed to be complete and all students will participate in a career-bridge experience prior to graduation.**

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM BECCA SCOTT

Welcome to the first newsletter for the on-campus internship program! This structured internship program ensures that both students and supervisors have a great experience working **together**. We look forward to updating our Hokies on our efforts to better serve our school. For more information, visit career.vt.org or email us at cpd@vt.edu

Get Involved

- These internships will allow students to develop soft skills. These skills are considered to be one's communication skills, character traits and social intelligence. The on-campus internship program allows students to refine these valuable skills that can not be taught in the classroom.
- A student's marketability as a job seeker will increase significantly by participating in the on-campus internship program.
- By having quality fieldwork experience on their resume, students will appear more desirable to job recruiters compared to their competitors.



Contact Us

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MOVING ABOVE

On-campus internship program goals:

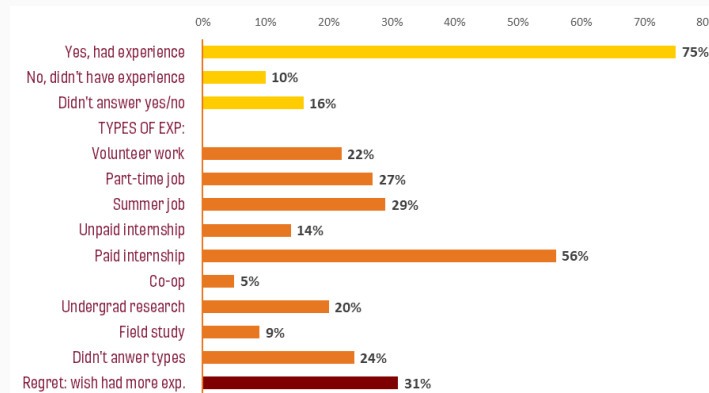
- **Providing** more opportunities for students to have internships while in school
- **Taking advantage** of on-campus opportunities for students
- **Ensuring** quality internships within the program
- **Navigating** students through a quality internship experience
- **Incorporating** a learning component within the internships as part of experiential learning
- **Facilitating** reflection on the learning component of the internship

Career Readiness

The on-campus internship program offers students essential career-related experiences during their time at Virginia Tech.

Career and Professional Development surveyed 2018-2019 graduates to create the First Destination Report. Of those surveyed:

- **46%** of students said they had learned some, but not all, that they needed to know with regard to job searching during college and **28%** of students reported they learned most that they needed to know with regard to job searching during college.
- **75%** of respondents had career-related experiences during college.
- Of the graduates that responded, **31%** indicated they wish they had *more* career-related experience before graduation.



From Career and Professional Development <https://career.vt.edu/about/postgrad-survey/report.html>

& BEYOND

Timeline of Events

- May 2015 - President Tim Sands announced university expansion (Beyond Boundaries).
- Spring 2021 - On-campus internship applications open.
- Fall 2021 - Interviews will begin.
- Fall 2021 - First class of internships begin following interviews.
- 2047 - Virginia Tech hopes to have all students participate in a career-bridge experiential learning program as a graduation requirement (Completion of Beyond Boundaries).



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Biography

Becca Scott

Associate Director for Professional Development and Experiential Initiatives



Becca Scott is the Associate Director for professional Development and Experiential Initiatives at Virginia Tech. Scott has over 20 years of experience in coaching individuals on how to manage their strengths and careers, starting her position at Virginia Tech in 1998. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Family and Child Development, as well as Master of Arts degree in Education, Student Personnel Services, and Counseling and Student Affairs from Virginia Tech. Scott currently resides in Blacksburg with her husband and two children. She helps students to develop skills and gain work experience in college that lead them to career success and is spearheading the on-campus internship program.

Vicki Pitstick
Director of the Academy for Experiential Learning



Vicki Pitstick attended Otterbein College where she acquired her Bachelor of Art in English and Secondary Education. From there she went to Ohio State University to further her education and get her Masters of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs. After working at University of Missouri- Columbia for some time she went back to Ohio State where she had numerous jobs and starting in 2016 began her studies for a PhD in Higher Education/ Higher Education Administration. She joined the Virginia Tech team in March of 2020 as the Director of the Academy for Experiential Learning. Pitstick supports the mission for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, providing faculty with the skills and tools to help students in experiential learning opportunities like the on-campus internship program.