



## **Invent the Future: Quality, Innovation, Results: The 2006 - 2012 Strategic Plan Update**

### **Learning Scholarship Domain**

#### **Educating the Whole Student**

The Division of Student Affairs and the Graduate School support the mission of Virginia Tech through the development of campus environments, programs, and services that complement the university's learning, discovery, and engagement foci and its mission to expand personal growth and opportunity, advance social and community development, foster economic competitiveness, and improve the quality of life.

Many co-curricular programs specifically support the academic mission of the university and address four university core values: the enhancement of mutual respect; a commitment to diverse and inclusive communities; the development of personal and institutional integrity; and the realization of the university's motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). To these ends, campus environments are created 1) that help to recruit, retain, and graduate students of diverse backgrounds; 2) that are welcoming to all; 3) that promote supportive and inclusive communities; and 4) that contribute to a just and caring campus.

The programs designed to address the whole student affirm the university's commitment to assist all students to develop personal and professional standards of ethical and civil behavior and good citizenship. In developing students who embody the service orientation expressed in the university motto, opportunities are provided for both undergraduate and graduate students to engage in leadership and experiential learning opportunities. In educating the whole person, comprehensive programs are developed that enhance the quality of life for all students and encourage productive, healthy lifestyles.

#### **Goal I. Contribute to the holistic and transformative educational experiences of Virginia Tech undergraduate and graduate students.**

##### **Strategies:**

- Create a comprehensive First-Year Experience Program for undergraduate students.
- Provide Transformative Graduate Education (TGE) experiences that foster the professional development of graduate students for the type of careers they will pursue.

- Provide, through the Graduate Life Center, a unique, integrated center that includes graduate housing, graduate life activities, and the Graduate School offices.
- Partner with academic units and external communities to offer leadership, service, and experiential learning opportunities for students that focus on multicultural and international competencies, ethics, and excellence.
- Strengthen the academic, professional, and personal development of students through partnerships between academic departments, university support services, and external stakeholders such as community constituents, parents, alumni, employers, and international partners.
- Partner with academic advising and other departments to provide transitional support to entering transfer students.

**Goal II. Promote the development of international and multicultural competencies in Virginia Tech students.**

**Strategies:**

- Create environments that are welcoming, accessible, comfortable, and representative of a diverse and inclusive campus community and that address the needs of students from a wide variety of backgrounds to reflect and stimulate diversity of thought and encourage meaningful participation and dialog.
- Improve campus climate, creating an environment of civility, sensitivity, and mutual respect that offers opportunities that encourage students to have productive and positive interactions with different cultures.

**Goal III. Support the university's commitment to continuous improvement by assessing student learning outcomes in co-curricular programs.**

**Strategies:**

- Articulate student learning outcomes that connect co-curricular experiences to the education of students in a developmentally appropriate manner.
- Track student wellness behaviors to evaluate and develop programs that support the education of students by enhancing their health, safety, and wellness.

**Goal IV. Improve the capital assets that underpin student learning and support programs.**

**Strategies:**

- Renovate and/or build contemporary residential living and fitness facilities, dining and student union facilities, and medical and mental health services

- facilities that are accessible to people with disabilities and will attract top-tier domestic and international students.
- Continue renovations and development of the Graduate Life Center and facilities for graduate housing.

**Performance Measures:**

- Increase the number of undergraduate students participating in residential and co-curricular first-year experiences.
- Increase the percentage of undergraduate and graduate students who engage in leadership programs and experiential learning opportunities.
- Assess and enhance the multicultural and international competencies of the Virginia Tech student community.
- Assess and enhance reporting mechanisms, programming, and interventions to positively impact the campus climate and civility.
- By 2012, complete construction of a new residence hall and an addition to McComas Hall as well as renovate selected undergraduate and graduate facilities such as residence halls, dining facilities, and student unions.