

Asian Cultural Engagement Center's 2022 October Newsletter

Note from the Director

Hello!

October is Hispanic-LatinX Heritage Month (September 15-October 15), Filipino American History Month, LGBTQ+ History Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 10th this year), American Indian and Indigenous Month (October 15-November 15), Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Diwali (October 24th this year), Yom Kippur (October 4th and 5th this month), and so much more! Virginia Tech also acknowledges Homecoming and just like last year, members of the APID Alumni Society will be participating in the annual tailgate festivities. Basically, there are so many wonderful events, programs, and activities so I hope that those in the APIDA communities, along with allies, will support the endeavors being hosted or co-sponsored by the ACEC!

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Sincerely,

Nina

ACEC's Statement of Purpose

The Asian Cultural Engagement Center (ACEC) is a division of the Cultural and Community Centers under the Virginia Tech Office for Inclusion and Diversity (OID). 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, whether inperson or virtually.

Interested in financially supporting the ACEC so that it can better serve the APIDA community? Please consider donating here: ACEC Donation Page.

Thank you for your consideration!

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: VTACEC

Instagram: vtacec

Twitter: acec vt

YouTube: ACEC VT

Website: ccc.vt.edu/index/acec.html

APIDA Caucus

The APIDA Caucus serves as an advocacy and support group for faculty, staff, and graduate students at Virginia Tech and Blacksburg/NRV community members who selfidentify as APIDA, or allies who are interested in participating in conversations relevant to the APIDA community. We also serve the APIDA community at other Virginia Tech campuses (Washington, D.C. area, etc). The Caucus acts as a liaison to the university administration and is committed to supporting the needs of all APIDA individuals. Our

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APIDA Faculty and Graduate Student Mentorship Program

The APIDA Caucus, in collaboration with the ACEC, recently started a mentorship program for APIDA faculty and APIDA graduate students. The program was spearheaded by Ph.D. student, Hana Chan, to provide mentors for APIDA graduate students who traditionally have difficulty finding mentors and role models in their respective fields and who also self-identify as APIDA. The purpose of the program is to create connections between graduate students and faculty within the APIDA community who share similar identities and experiences and to create safe and culturally sensitive environments for graduate students to seek guidance and support.

Please reach out to Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu for more information.

APID Alumni Society

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi Alumni Society (APIDAS) of Virginia Tech is an organization dedicated to fostering community for all Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni. In addition to building a community of alums, we strive to foster mentorships with current undergrad and grad students, provide networking opportunities, and give back to our alma mater from wherever we are. If you are interested in learning more about us or would like to join, please email apidasvt@gmail.com.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/apidasvt

Instagram: apidas vt

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The mission of the Asian American Student Union is to serve the Asian/Pacific Islander/Desi American (APIDA) communities within Virginia Tech. It shall act as an umbrella organization over the branching undergraduate APIDA organizations. It shall strive to enhance and further the individual, cultural, and ethnic diversities that exist in the APIDA communities. It shall make efforts to address the problems, issues, and concerns of the APIDA communities to the administration and other fellow student organizations.

Follow us on social media!

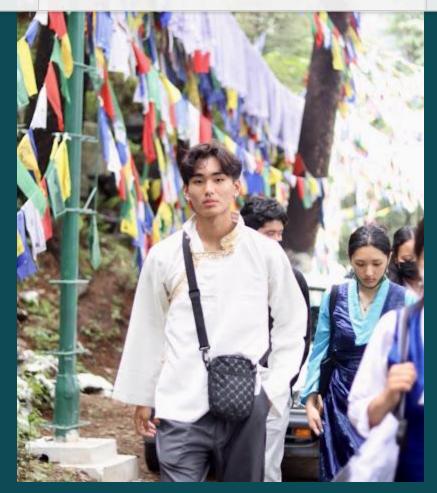
Facebook: VTAASU

Instagram: <u>aasuvt</u>

GobblerConnect: <u>gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/aasu</u>

Featured Spotlights





(Caption by Kalsang Tseten; Photo by: Tenzin Samphel Palden)

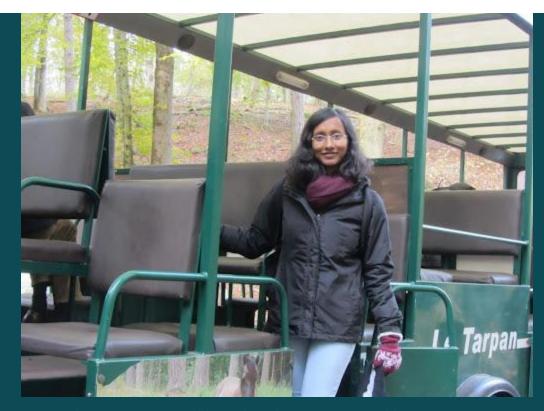
Kalsang Tseten was born July 11, 2003 in Northern Virginia, Falls Church and resided there until attending Virginia Tech. Tseten started his freshman year at Virginia Tech in the fall of 2021 in pursuit of an Economics degree. He likes to be a part of the community by attending and interacting with members of the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) and Filipino American Student Association (FASA), and participating as the Education and Advocacy Chair in the Asian American Student Union (AASU). Tseten has a strong cultural tie and background with Tibet, after being given the opportunity to connect with it after graduating high school. He got to visit India and attended Sarahh University where he was able to learn more and come to love Tibetan culture.

He learned a fair amount about the long history and culture of the Tibetan people, and he got to connect with Tibetans. Tseten learned about how welcoming the Tibetan people are; it didn't matter that he didn't speak the same language or have the same background, they welcomed him in a way that felt incredibly comforting and refreshing. With what he had learned, Tseten wanted to be able to share his culture with others if they were curious, as he didn't even know it himself that well until now. Tseten has plans to start a Tibetan Student Association at Virginia Tech and hopes to be able to share his own experiences with Tibetan culture with others.

With his time at Virginia Tech, Tseten has felt that he learned many different

oneself to new experiences and different situations. When he initially started to attend Virginia Tech, he had hoped for new opportunities to magically appear, but he soon learned that the only way to get any of those opportunities was to seize them himself. No one was going to go out of their way to do things for Tseten, and so he believes that the greatest advice he could give would be to go out of one's way to introduce oneself to create opportunities for oneself. If it meant going out on campus and joining a random soccer game to asking strangers how to start a Student Association, those small uncomfortable steps are what is necessary to make an impact on the community.

Graduate Spotlight



(Caption by Srimoyee Samaddar; Photo by Sayanti Samaddar)

Srimoyee Samaddar was born and raised in Kalyani, India. She received her Bachelor's degree at West Bengal University of Technology in Kalyani, India. Afterward, she migrated to the United States to complete her Master's degree in Electrical Engineering at The Ohio State University within 1.5 years. She then came to Virginia Tech in 2016 to pursue research and eventually earn her Ph.D. She has been at Virginia Tech for about 6 years and she is going to graduate in the of Fall 2022 with her Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering with a concentration in Space Science and Aeronomy.

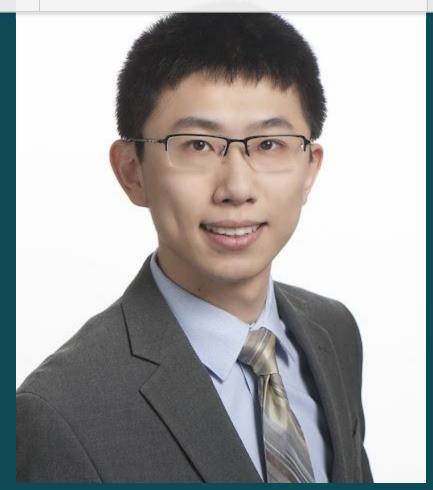
She chose Virginia Tech because she was interested in the research options about space that Virginia Tech provided. Samaddar was able to talk to one of the advisors there to attain research opportunities. She also came to Virginia Tech having a passion to pursue higher education. During her time at Virginia Tech, she

She has made contributions to Virginia Tech by conducting research and presenting them through conferences in the United States and Europe, and also by inspiring other young students to conduct research and be successful in the field. Samaddar is an international student, so when she initially came to the United States, her perspective of the United States was influenced by movies and other sources of media, meaning it was "White Washed." She means it in terms of the microaggressions that target minorities, but she has learned that it is okay if those things exist.

When she came to Virginia Tech in 2015 to visit, she only saw White people there, and not a lot of diversity among other races. Samaddar was also a TA in the Electrical Engineering Department, and her class mostly consisted of White people too, with a few others who were of a different race. There was no APIDA community back then and there was no sense of community, especially since the ACEC was not created until 2017. Essentially, where the ACEC now exists, it was just another study space until Dr. Nina Ha became the Director of the ACEC. After a few years have passed, the APIDA community has grown significantly, especially after COVID. However, one of the problems that still occurs today is that international students are not able to get internships or jobs because they all would need a work permit or be a citizen of the United States, and not a lot of companies will give international students those opportunities. For example, Engineering EXPO was in mid-September and Samaddar attended this event, but a lot of companies required the student applicants to be U.S. citizens.

At the ACEC, she has met a lot of unique and diverse people. This has made her feel the sense of an APIDA community. And having younger students around the ACEC helped them learn about the diverse community that exists at Virginia Tech. Samaddar gave some advice to students about being patient to do things and having the curiosity to learn. Then also to never stop learning, even to avoid the feeling of failure. The important thing is to learn from one's mistakes.

Faculty Spotlight



(Caption by Dr. Kevin Cheng; Photo by Dr. Kevin Cheng)

Dr. Kevin Cheng is an Assistant Collegiate Professor in the Department of Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management. He is passionate about teaching students personal financial topics that they will have to ultimately know for their future. More specifically, he teaches Consumer and Family Finances, Financial Counseling, and Debtor - Creditor Relationship. He received his Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral degrees from the University of Missouri all in Personal Financial Planning. After graduating with his Ph.D., Dr. Cheng officially joined Virginia Tech in Fall 2019, making this year his third. He is currently on track to become an Assistant Professor.

Dr. Cheng was born and raised in Jinan, the capital of the Shandong province in China. According to him, the city is even more populated than New York City. Shortly after his high school graduation, his father wanted him to study abroad. Aside from the United States, Cheng considered going to New Zealand, Australia, and Canada. Within the United States, Cheng had options to study at the University of Miami, University of Nebraska, University of Missouri, and possibly Boston College or Boston University. After a friend's son spoke about having a good experience at the University of Missouri, Cheng and his father ultimately decided on having him attend there. He also chose to study Personal Financial Planning because he has a passion for helping others. Cheng recalled first landing in New York City, then flying to St. Louis where the university is located. At that point, Cheng had already learned English writing and reading

questions like paying tuition and rent, and offering him rides to buy groceries. After completing his Master's degree, he finally adapted and felt comfortable. In his last year of his Ph.D. program, Cheng was offered a job with Virginia Tech.

When he's not in the classroom, Dr. Cheng enjoys spending time with his dog and two cats. He has a golden retriever, GoGo; a domestic shorthair, MiaoMiao; and a ragdoll, Little Bite. As his name implies, GoGo is very active, so Dr. Cheng takes him on walks along trails in Blacksburg and Roanoke. They also visit national and state parks and go fishing. Having been a student athlete in high school, Dr. Cheng also enjoys running in his free time. He also likes to support Tech's student athletes, as they invite him to their games. Dr. Cheng specifically likes supporting men's and women's basketball and women's soccer. He has also recently become involved with the Asian Cultural Engagement Center. The Welcome Back event last month, to which he was invited to by Dr. Nina Ha, was his first time. Dr. Cheng will also be speaking at a Learning Lunch event on Friday, October 21, 2022. He hopes to become more involved in Tech's APIDA community.

Alumni Spotlight



(Caption by: Dr. Yinan Wang; Photo by: Linda Hazelwood)

Dr. Yinan Wang is a Virginia Tech alum from the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering and completed his Ph.D. in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech in May 2022. Previously, he completed his M.S. in Electrical Engineering at Columbia University (2019) and B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Automation at Xi'an Jiaotong University (2017) based in Xi'an, China. Currently, he serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

discussions with his peers, advisors and faculty at VT, he chose to pursue a career in academia. "Both the Department and Institution showed me the positive impact that outstanding education and research can have on individuals, communities, and countries. They also offered me an opportunity to equip myself with the necessary skills."

"It was an outstanding experience to be part of the APIDA Community at Virginia Tech. I received a lot of help and support and also had the opportunity to share my experience with people who were under a similar situation. I think cultural and community-based organizations are like harbors to tie together those people who share a similar background and those who are open to embracing different cultures. It provides unprecedented opportunities for us to learn, share, and support each other."

Currently working as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at RPI, his tasks mainly include teaching/advising, research, and service. Teaching/Advising mainly involves dealing with different levels of undergraduate and graduate students. His research interest lies in engineering-driven machine learning with applications to advanced manufacturing. The most important reason that inspired Dr. Wang to work in academia was to lead cutting-edge research and educate the next generation of researchers and engineers. Considering the bigger picture, he believes that education has the magical power to change the life of each and every individual, positively influence the community and society, and even push forward the boundary of knowledge.

For the students who are interested in research and would like to pursue a career in academia, Dr. Wang recommends first identifying a research interest. "I believe most academic careers are driven by interest. You will be self-motivated when you find something you are passionate about." Dr. Wang says that having an early start makes a big difference when it comes to taking research as a path for undergraduate and graduate students, the easiest way being to take courses related to one's research interest and seek opportunities to do related research work. "The last thing I want to mention is that you should be aware, you are always along with other researchers sharing a similar interest and 'living' in the research community. Considering this perspective, you should be actively involved in the research community, reach out to people or resources that can support your success, and also serve the community with feedback."







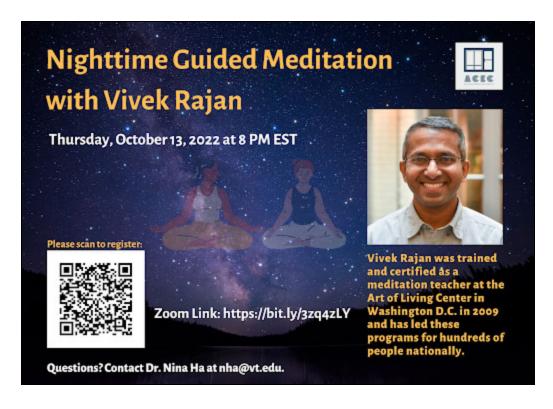


Interest Form link for Kamayan Project: https://forms.gle/hbjfJHTaG6BRfaNq8

APIDA Caucus Events



ACEC Upcoming Events



ASIAN CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER

APIDA MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

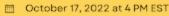
VEEC



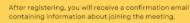
The topic for this event will be microaggressions. Light refreshments will be provided.

Register in advance:









For questions and accomodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vt.edu



Asian Cultural Engagement Center & LGBTQ+ Resource Center CELEBRATNG LGBTQ+ HISTORY MONTH

COMING UP QUEER AND INDIAN IN A





Neema Avashia is the daughter of Indian immigrants, and was born and raised in southern West Virginia. She has been an educator and activist in the Boston Public Schools since 2003, and was named a City of Boston Educator of the Year in 2013. Her first book, Another Appalachia. Coming Up Queer and Indian in a Mountain Place, was published by West Virginia University Press in March.

October 19, 2022

6:00 PM EST

LGBTQ+ Resource Center

(Sauires 227) and Virtual

Link for Watch Party: https://bit.ly/3r3SRBC



Light Refreshments will be served!

For questions or accommodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nha@vtedu



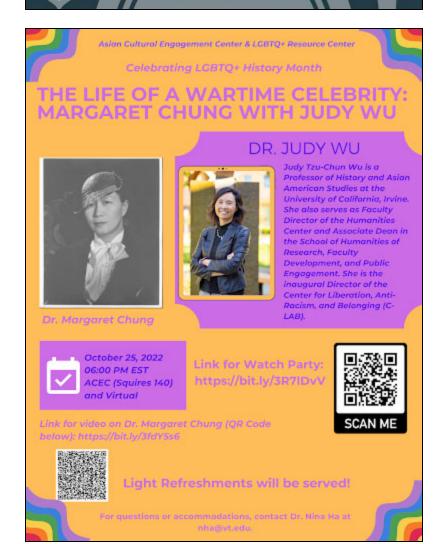
Squires Room 140 or via Zoom

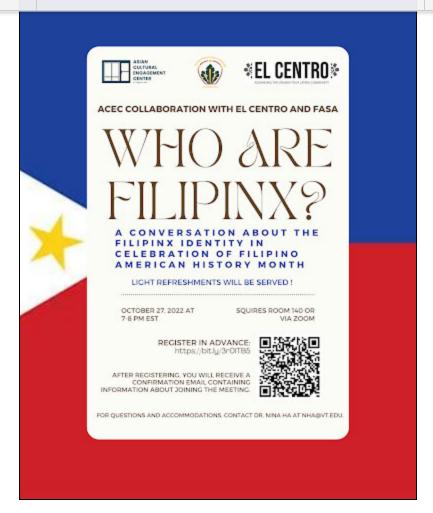
Light refreshments will be provided.

Register in advance: https://bit.ly/3ffTo00



For questions or accomodations, contact Dr. Nina Ha at nhaevt.edu.





CCC and Campus Partner Events

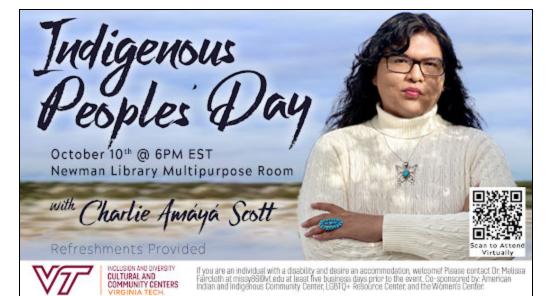
CCCs Calendar of Events here: https://ccc.vt.edu/calendar.html





If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, welcome? Please contact Dr. Beo of arthrophane?W. act at least the business days only to be event. Dr. appropriet by American Indian and indicensor. Examinating Carter 15 Centro Holoe/PBE, and the LEETO+ Resource Desire.













ACEC's APIDA Highlights in VT News

Dr. Feng Lin:

https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/09/science-

feng lin leo melva harris fellowship.html?

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ailyCMP_100422-fs

Dr. Daphne Yao with graduate students Sharmin Afrose and Wenjia Song:

https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/09/daphne-yao-ai-fairness.html? utm_source=cmpgn_news&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=vtUnirelNewsD ailyCMP_100322-fs

September 26, 2022 at El Centro (Squires 309): https://youtu.be/5YWHsU5PGNE

Opportunities

The ACEC is hiring for an Assistant Director!

Please circulate widely and share with your networks.

https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521964/assistant-director-for-the-asian-cultural-center

UC Davis has a new tenure track position in Science and Technology Studies and Asian American Studies.

You can find more details, and apply, here: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/JPF05190

We are thrilled to announce VT Engage: The Center for Leadership and Service Learning is currently hiring for two positions. If you or someone you know is looking to join a dynamic team that values equity and inclusion, mutually beneficial partnerships, and student identity development within Leadership Education and Service Learning, then come join us! We are open to applicants inside and outside of higher education, but do require a Master's degree for both positions. These positions will both directly report to the Associate Director and have a salary range of \$53,000-\$55,000.

Assistant Director for Leadership Engagement

The Assistant Director for Leadership Engagement is responsible for developing and implementing leadership education and programming that advances the objectives of VT Engage: The Center for Leadership & Service Learning. The position manages all aspects of student leadership programs including; The Big Event at Virginia Tech, and the National Society for Leadership & Success at Virginia Tech. They will also lead multiple campus wide initiatives for leadership development including the I WILL Leadership Institute, and Lead for Good workshop series. The position will directly supervise the Graduate Assistant for Leadership & Civic Engagement.

For more information on this position including all the qualification information check out <a href="https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521786/assistant-theorem-nation-nation-theorem-nation-theorem-nation-na

Assistant Director for Service Learning

The Assistant Director of Service Learning primarily coordinates the faculty fellows program and is a resource and consultant to all faculty in development of trainings, course content, and supplementary materials for service learning courses. The position manages data and assessment related to curricular endeavors. Additionally, they will coordinate community partner logistics for the Global Service Learning programs in VT Engage along with the Engagement coordinator. The position will directly supervise the Engagement Coordinator.

For more information on this position including all the qualification information check out https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/521841/assistant-director-for-service-learning

Priority Review date for both positions is September 19, 2022. For questions please contact search chair and Associate Director Jes Davis at jesdavis@vt.edu or 540-231-6947.





Rhonyll Seballos Endowed Scholarship

Funded by Virginia Tech, the Rhonyll Seballos Endowed Scholarship is a onetime scholarship awarded to students who exhibit academic achievement, which prefers students participating in the Filipino-American Student Association and

completing the thank you letter requirement will be emailed to awardees in the summer prior to the beginning of the next academic year. Changes in funding may cause VT to replace this award with another award for the same amount.

Web link: https://vt.academicworks.com/opportunities/39377



You're Invited to Viet Film Fest 2022!

As #VietFilmFest2022 nears it opening, we are excited to bring back our hybrid program offering both virtual and in-person film screenings, including eight World premieres and over a dozen North American premieres throughout the festival!

IN-PERSON INFO

COCATION: Century Theaters Huntington Beach at 7777 Edinger Ave Suite 170, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

CHECK-IN:

- Please arrive at least 45-60 minutes prior to showtime for parking and event check-in/registration. Doors are open 20 mins before the show starts.

VIRTUAL ONLINE INFO

- Once the film becomes available, you will have 7 days to start watching. Once you begin the movie, you will have 72 hours to finish watching. Please double check when your selected film will be released via Viet Film Fest's Virtual Festival catalog.
- Ensure you have stable internet connection throughout the festival. For any issues prior, please email technical@vaala.org or tonynguyen@vaala.org
- ☐ For help with technical components of the virtual festival site, including LIVE CHAT SUPPORT, CLICK HERE
- Y For a guide on how to vote for films in competitions or shorts within a competition black, CLICK HERE

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Dear Friends,

My name is Saifa Khan, and I am the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director at Kundiman. I wanted to let you know that Kundiman is searching for two self-directed, independent, and collaborative candidates who are passionate about nurturing the Asian American literary community.

1) Development Director – The Development Director will be primarily responsible for connecting Kundiman to our individual and corporate supporters. This role will require leading Kundiman individual and corporate giving strategy, managing Kundiman's various grant applications, and conceptualizing & executing fundraising campaigns. This position will be conducted remotely, with a preference for NYC–based candidates.

Requirements: At least three years of experience in nonprofit fundraising; exceptional writing ability, communication, and interpersonal skills; ability to manage multiple projects; and more.

Title: Development Director

Reports to: Executive Director

Salary Range: \$60,000–\$65,000

\$850 monthly healthcare stipend

30 days paid time off, plus holidays

2) Finance & Operations Director – The Finance & Operations Director will be primarily responsible for . The role will require overseeing Kundiman's taxes filings, disbursing payroll and contractor payments, and producing financial reports, budgets, and projections. This position will be conducted remotely, with a preference for NYC–based candidates.

Requirements: At least three years of experience with nonprofit administrative and financial operations; strong organizational, management, and problem-solving skills; and more.

Title: Finance & Operations Director

Reports to: Executive Director

\$850 monthly healthcare stipend

30 days paid time off, plus holidays

Priority Deadline: October 10th, 2022.

To learn more about these positions and apply, please click here:

https://www.kundiman.org/jobs

Attention VT students! Applications are now open for two of our signature programs in Virginia Tech's Division of Finance: our year-long fellowship and our summer internship. Please see the information below, and share with those in your club or advising group:

1. Rotational Finance Fellowship (For those graduating in Dec. 2022 or May 2023)

Applications are <u>now open</u> for the Vice President for Finance Rotational Fellowship. This year-long program provides participants with wide-ranging and engaging experiences working with multiple Finance departments and the overall higher education administration of Virginia Tech.

This 12-month, benefitted staff position has a flexible start depending on your expected graduation date. Please <u>visit our website</u> for more information, and <u>Apply Here</u> before our <u>October 24th</u> deadline.

This is one of the Finance division's signature InclusiveVT initiatives, with the goal of creating an employment pipeline that draws from the university's talented, diverse student body. The program has a strong track record of a participants being hired into full-time higher education administration roles across the Commonwealth. Please contact us if you have any questions.

2. Rotational Internship Program (for rising juniors and seniors during Summer 2023)

Applications are <u>now open</u> for a paid internship in Summer 2023 in Blacksburg! Our 12 week rotational internship program offers students a hands-on experience working with the university financial offices. While learning about how higher education works "behind the scenes", program participants will complete a specified track, that may be in the areas of:

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Accounting
Data Analytics and Solutions
Procurement
Student Services

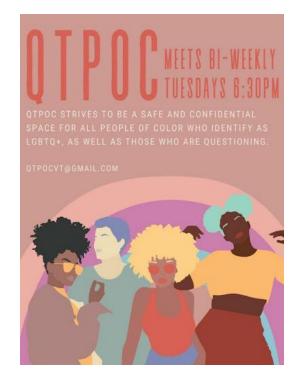
The program runs May-August 2023. Please <u>visit our website</u> for more information, and <u>Apply Here</u>. The application deadline is <u>January 2nd</u>, <u>2023</u>. Please <u>contact us</u> if you have any questions.

A Virginia Tech tradition, **the Little HokieTM Hand-Me-Down** event brings together faculty, staff, and students who either wish to give away or to receive gently used goods for their babies and children. See the links below for additional information, including a list of items and important dates. Donations can be dropped off at the Women's Center (206 Washington Street) or the Graduate Life Center's front desk. Thanks, and please help us to spread the word!

https://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/content/dam/womenscenter_vt_edu/programs-fall-2022/LHHMD%20(1).png

 $\underline{https://www.womenscenter.vt.edu/content/dam/womenscenter_vt_edu/programs-fall-2022/LHHMD%20SMALL%20(1).png}$

Resources





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career.vt.edu/iris





If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Asfley Roberts 540:231-6241 or ashiny/right-edu during regular business hours at least 10 business days prior to your appointment. Professional ghoto booth is wheelchair accessible.







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