

**RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
HONORS COLLEGE AT VIRGINIA TECH**

Documents included:

1. Resolution to establish an honors college at Virginia Tech.
2. Presentation – slides

RESOLUTION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN HONORS COLLEGE AT VIRGINIA TECH

WHEREAS, the University Honors Program was founded in 1968 and is about to enter its sixth decade of operation; and

WHEREAS, University Honors has a demonstrated record of effectiveness in fulfilling its mission to inspire and facilitate an extraordinary education for students of exceptional motivation; and

WHEREAS, establishment of an Honors College demonstrates Virginia Tech's commitment to high quality, rigorous, and innovative undergraduate education; and

WHEREAS, the creation of honors colleges at top American public universities is increasing rapidly to meet contemporary students' desires for intimate, small-college environments that have all of the advantages of diverse, world-leading research institutions; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that the presence of an honors college at a large public university significantly influences the application, enrollment, and retention decisions of high-achieving students; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Tech's honors program meets 16 of the 17 criteria of a "Fully Developed Honors Program" and 9 of the 13 criteria of a "Fully Developed Honors College" as specified by the National Collegiate Honors Council, including strategic design and control of honors recruitment, admissions, policies, curriculum, diploma requirements, and residential opportunities; and

WHEREAS, an Honors College will expand opportunities for philanthropic support from foundations and private donors; and

WHEREAS, an Honors College will be uniquely positioned to maximize the disciplinary depth, interdisciplinary capacities, and purpose-driven engagement that are the hallmarks of the VT-shaped student's undergraduate student experience; and

WHEREAS, an Honors College will be a critical contributor to the university's vision and efforts to advance as a top 100 global university by leading in the curricular innovation needed to produce scholars and leaders capable of addressing pressing economic, societal, and technological needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the existing University Honors program will be superseded by the new Honors College.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the creation of the new Honors College be approved, effective July 1, 2016.

June 6, 2016

Resolution for the Establishment of an Honors College

Paul Knox, Ph.D.

University Distinguished Professor

Senior Fellow For International Advancement

Honors Dean Designate

Board of Visitors, Academic Affairs Committee

June 6, 2016

University Honors

Original Program founded 1968

Mission: to inspire and facilitate an extraordinary education for students of exceptional motivation and ability who seek to be active learners and who will apply their knowledge and skills to critical real-world problems.

Serves 1,500 undergraduate students annually; around 425 in Honors living-learning communities (Hillcrest and the Honors Residential Community).

4000 applications this year

University Honors

University Honors has helped foster and prepare the winners of

- 2 Rhodes Scholarships,
- 2 Ford Foundation Fellowships,
- 3 Truman Scholarships,
- 3 Howard Hughes Scholarships,
- 4 Marshall Scholarships,
- 16 Udall Scholarships,
- 34 Fulbright Scholarships,
- 43 Goldwater Scholarships, and
- 119 National Science Foundation Scholarships

University Honors

Attachment C



Andres Morana



Neoma Nwankwo



Maria Jernigan



Taylor Allen



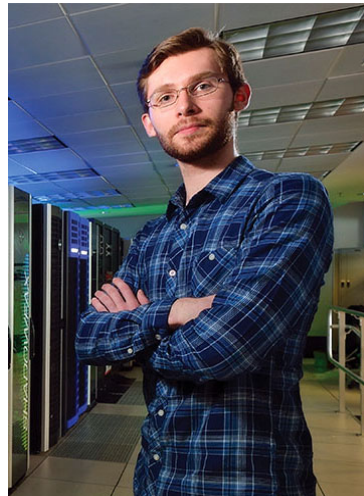
Lauren Cashman



Claire Kelling



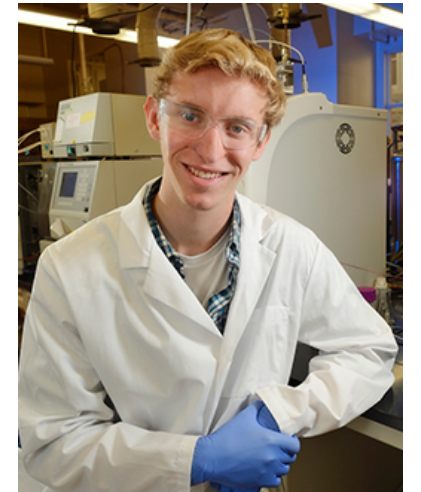
Austin Larrowe



Marcus Wanner



Summer Caton



Bobby Hollingsworth

University Honors

University Honors provides opportunities for students to create flexible and personalized programs of study founded on five critical experiences:

- meaningful and sustained relationships with faculty,
- independent learning,
- undergraduate research,
- place-based and problem-focused experiences, and
- intellectual engagement in global contexts

University Honors

Honors grants diplomas, not degrees

Students earn Honors credit:

- In major
- In Minors and across disciplines
- For Undergraduate Research
- For Experiential Learning
- For Service Learning

= VT-shaped
student

Honors College

Why a College?

- To extend and diversify the pool of students of exceptional motivation and ability
- To systematize and intensify Honors programming
- To increase the resource base

Honors College

Nationally: 1500 Honors programs; 182 are Colleges

Among the top-ranked Colleges and programs two-thirds are land-grant institutions; some are SCHEV peer institutions (Penn State, Michigan State, University of Maryland, Purdue, Berkeley)

[STAFF](#)

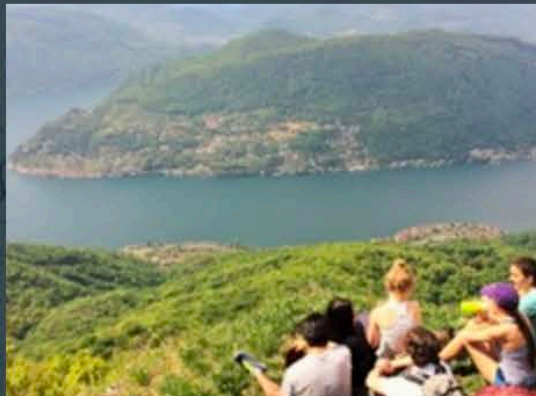
[STUDENTS](#)

[FACULTY RESOURCES](#)

[AMBASSADORS](#)

[ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS](#)

CHALLENGE, EXPECTATION, **OPPORTUNITY.**



[PRESIDENTIAL GLOBAL
SCHOLARS >](#)



[HONORS HOUSING >](#)



[SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY >](#)

Honors College

An opportunity to review and strengthen the contribution of Honors to:

VT-shaped students

Inclusive VT

Thematic emphases of Destination Areas

Honors College

Plans for the College include:

- Strengthened/simplified curricular framework
- Scholarships, Experiential Learning Grants, Innovation Hub/Living Lab grants
- Signature programs in Neuroscience, Data and Decision Sciences, etc.
- “Destinations for Talent” Undergraduate research program
- Customized internship programs
- Alumni mentoring program
- Honors-wide lecture series
- Washington Semester for Honors students

University Honors

Plans (continued)

- Presidential Global Scholars at the Steger Center → Pathways to General Education requirement
- Capstone portfolio
- Tutorials & extended peer-to-peer learning
- Revised recruiting/admissions strategy

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