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March 4, 2022

Dear Conference Participants,

Welcome to Virginia Tech's 12th Annual Academic Advising Conference, *Advising Matters*.

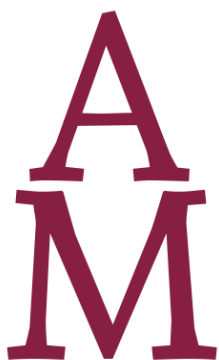
The theme for this year's conference is "Advising Matters: Thriving through Change." The global pandemic has impacted higher education, putting employees and students in a place of vast change. The 2022 conference theme was selected to highlight the dedication and resilience of the individuals in student support roles, as well as embrace change moving forward. The pandemic has brought on many challenges, but also taught us to welcome change and find the positive in every situation. Our recent experiences reiterate that colleges and universities must continually examine and recalibrate approaches to teaching, advising, and support services to support our students not only to persist, but thrive as they achieve their degree.

I am especially pleased to welcome our very own, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Frank Shushok, to frame our discussion as the conference keynote speaker. As a scholar-practitioner, he is known for his profound commitment to student learning, his learning-centered leadership, his community-centered approach, his commitment to diversity and inclusivity, and his desire to help others reach their fullest potential. He has led significant Virginia Tech initiatives to provide holistic learning environments for students, including strengthening and expanding the university's living-learning communities, introducing a positive psychology and strengths-based approach in student affairs programs, and implementing the Aspirations for Student Learning.

We know an advisor's support, influence, and guidance is critical as students make intentional academic choices, build personal and professional skills, practice resilience, connect to resources, and move to their goal of graduation. Our advisors also help to shape departmental culture, elevating student needs and desires to faculty, staff, and administrators. Your connection with a student may make all the difference in that student's success. I hope the presentations and discussions across the conference will empower you in your work and will energize you for the remainder of the semester.

ADVISING MATTERS CONFERENCE

THRIVING THROUGH
CHANGE



Advising Matters

03.04.22

THE INN AT VIRGINIA TECH AND
SKELTON CONFERENCE CENTER





CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Registration and Continental Breakfast | 8:00 -8:30 AM
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

Welcome | 8:30 -9:00 AM

Lauren Thomas, Director for Academic Advising Initiatives

Opening Session | 9:00 -10:00 AM

Building and Sustaining a Culture of Care: Whatever it takes to support the individual success and well-being of every student

Mr. Frank Shushok, Jr., Ph.D. Virginia Tech, Virginia

Cultural change is almost always a grassroots endeavor—starting in classrooms, hallways, advising appointments and nowadays, Zoom sessions. You, in your role, are a game-changer for students and their families. You literally have the opportunity every day to change the course of history for good. In his talk, Frank will share why you are a powerful agent for cultural change and why that power is too often overlooked. Let's start a movement where care and hope are abundant.



As Vice President for Student Affairs, Frank provides leadership and oversight for 25 departments with a budget of more than \$164 million and a staff of more than 3,600 employees. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Frank is an associate professor in the department of agricultural, leadership and community education and an affiliated faculty member in the higher education graduate program. From 2013-2018, he served as executive editor of About Campus, a national magazine that promotes strengthening the student learning experience in higher education.

Break	10:00 - 10:20 AM	Lunch	12:00 - 1:40 PM
Advising Presentation	10:20 - 11:00 AM	Concurrent Session I	1:40 - 2:40 PM
Break	11:00 - 11:20 AM	Break	2:40 - 3:00 PM
Student Panel	11:20 - 12:00 PM	Concurrent Session II	3:00 - 4:00 PM

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- College of Engineering
- College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- Pamplin College of Business
- College of Science
- Division of Enrollment Management
- Office of Inclusion and Diversity



ExperienceVT as a Tool for Developmental Advising

Andrew Dolbin-MacNab, Virginia Tech

Matt Ebert, Virginia Tech

Janet Hilder, Virginia Tech

James Bridgeforth, Virginia Tech

Solitude

ExperienceVT is a Virginia Tech Student Affairs initiative to help students discover their strengths, clarify their goals, plan meaningful campus experiences, and take action toward their goals. ExperienceVT provides students with resources and coaching to help them create a personalized plan and engage in ongoing conversations that enable them to intentionally experience Virginia Tech. Academic advisors can play a central role in these conversations to encourage student engagement, promote self-actualization, and improve student well-being. This interactive presentation will give an overview of ExperienceVT, and explore how academic advisors can use this, and similar initiatives, to engage in developmental advising.

Supporting Students on Academic Probation: Advisor Praxis

Anya Work, Virginia Tech

Cascades

Academic probation can be a challenging and complex experience for students, however the support students on probation receive from their academic advisors is crucial to their success. Drawing from an extensive review of previous research and past experiences, session participants will increase their awareness of student perceptions of being on probation, effective strategies for student support, and how to cultivate an inclusive environment for students on academic probation. This discussion will serve as an opportunity for participants to practice collective self-reflection and reframe how they view students on academic probation with a focus on an asset-based view of student success.

A Triple Perspective on Transitioning to a Centralized Advising Center

Karen Watson, Virginia Tech

Drillfield

The College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences (CLAHS) is re-envisioning undergraduate academic advising. A CLAHS Academic Advising Redesign Action Team participated in the NACADA Administrators Institute in February 2021 to develop our multi-phase plan that was kicked off in May during Global Advising Week.

Phase 1 included the recruitment, hiring, and onboarding of three new professional academic advisors and the transition of one advisor from a departmental position to a full-time advising position for the CLAHS Academic Advising Center. This presentation explores the benefits of centralized advising and showcases the collaboration of advisors and faculty to reinvigorate academic advising in CLAHS.

Thriving through changes on the pre-health journey: How advisors can support pre-health students as they navigate around roadblocks

Annie Laib Jenkins, Virginia Tech

Carol Robinson, Virginia Tech

Duck Pond

Student Dream: "Graduate high school. Get into college. Get into medical school. Become a doctor. Save lives." Many students come to college with a dream of becoming a healthcare provider one day and a broad list of goals, but lacking the resources to capably navigate this pre-health journey and readjust when inevitable road bumps arise. In this session, Health Professions Advising will discuss some common avenues for pre-health students to adjust through academic and experiential roadblocks and will engage advisors in interactive conversation surrounding navigating difficult conversations without feeling like a "dream crusher."

Change for the Better: Embedding Centrally Trained Advisors into Departments

Vivek Shastry, Virginia Tech

Melanie Sontheimer, Virginia Tech

Sarah Bechtel, Virginia Tech

Smithfield

The College of Science (COS) experienced turmoil during Summer 2021 with a transition of academic advisors in one of their largest departments. To alleviate the hardship and stress of advising on the remaining two advisors (1 professional; 1 faculty), the College of Science leadership stepped in to mitigate the crisis. Through strategic planning, teamwork, and collaboration, a plan was devised to take on the challenge ensuring no student was left behind. Unanticipated problems arose during this transition which led to reevaluating our academic advising onboarding and orientation process. During this presentation, we will provide anecdotes and have a group discussion.



Staying Where We Belong: Building resilience and sense of belonging by creating inclusive environments through informed advising

Teresa Wilson, Virginia Tech

Solitude

Research into first-generation students reveals a positive correlation between their sense of belonging and retention and persistence to graduation rates. Quality advising and mentors create a student's bond to the institution and develop a strong sense of belonging. Being inclusive in our advising practice helps to build/enhance students' resilience and agency to achieve their goals. This presentation shares inclusive practice points and explains the theory that informs these practices.

Reframing Struggle: Advising First-Year Students through a College-Readiness Approach

Christina Fabrey, Virginia Tech

Amber Smith, Virginia Tech

Cascades

Students transitioning from high school often struggle in the less structured college environment. Even selective college admissions offices that measure academic eligibility well can be less adept at measuring non-cognitive skills. In this session, we will discuss executive functions, college and career readiness skills, and how to apply developmental advising techniques to support first-year students in improving their academic performance and college experience. Participants will leave the workshop with practical strategies to use with students to identify college readiness concerns, support common first-year student transitional issues, and reframe academic challenges toward post-secondary success.

Reading Your Email Could be a Full Time Job: Communicating Efficiently with a Large Advising Caseload

Christina Minford, Virginia Tech

Courtney Glass, Virginia Tech

Duck Pond

In the age of social media, we're connected all the time, overwhelmed, inboxes are unmanageable, and it's easy to tune out communications. Students are no different than advisors. How do you ensure students are getting the information to succeed in college? With a focus on first-generation students and incoming first-year and transfer students, we've devised a communication plan to highlight essential information to promote student success, retention, and engagement. Participants will learn about our communication plan for a large advising caseload.

Participants will be encouraged to share ideas and brainstorm communication plans to bring back to their departments.

Mitigating Campus Violence: An Academic Advisor's Role in Preventing Sexual Violence and Hazing at Virginia Tech

Kayla Goodwin, Virginia Tech

Abbey Rowe Erwin, Virginia Tech

Shannon Shastry, Virginia Tech

Chelsea J. Cleary, Virginia Tech

David Andrews, Virginia Tech

Smithfield

Sexual violence and hazing are pervasive on college campuses across the United States, and a recent study has identified potential overlaps of these two forms of interpersonal violence. Extensive literature supports the need for collaborative efforts amongst campus professionals, including academic advisors, to effectively eradicate campus violence. As trusted mentors to college students, academic advisors are in a unique position to identify risk, intervene accordingly, and support prevention efforts regarding sexual violence and hazing. This session will examine how academic advisors can support the collective efforts of creating a safer environment for students at Virginia Tech.

So you want to study abroad...now what?

Maureen Deisinger, Virginia Tech

Marielle Wijnands, Virginia Tech

Drillfield

This session is a re-vamped edition of our 2021 presentation, perfect for a seasoned advisor wanting a refresher or someone new to VT wanting to learn the basics. Has a student ever told you they're interested in studying abroad, but you weren't quite sure how to best support them? In this session, presenters from the Global Education Office will introduce the basics of study abroad at VT, discuss how academic advisors complement the GEO, and share updates to GEO advising resources including new credit transfer database collaborations with the Registrar's office. We will also address important COVID-19 safety approval process updates. Attendees will discuss good practices for initial study abroad advising through scenarios. This session is useful for advisors who are new to international education as well as those who already have a strong understanding.





2021-2022 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Virginia Tech makes intentional efforts to support the professional development of its advisors by providing funds to support the development of faculty, professional, and staff advisors who serve undergraduate students in an advising capacity. Each recipient below has been awarded a \$500 professional development grant to assist with expenses related to advising conferences and events.



Julie Burger
College of Natural
Resources and
Environment



Paige Johnson
Computer Science



Joseph Welsh
Pamplin College of
Business



MEET OUR STUDENT PANEL

The Office of Academic Advising Initiatives hosts a student-led panel to discuss the unique strategies students have used to overcome challenging times. The student panelists are engaged in Student Success Initiatives and the larger campus community.



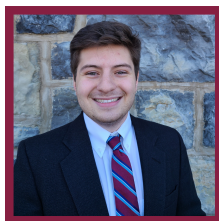
Alyssa McCormick
Accounting and
Information Systems
Senior



Jacob Curry
Communications
Sophomore



Brianna Brown
Psychology
Sophomore



Ross Wunibald
Management
Senior



Javier Ortiz Alvarado
Chemistry
Senior



SPRING 2022 ACADEMIC ADVISING ACADEMY

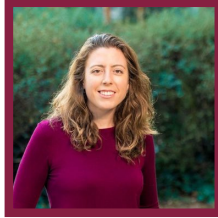
Academic Advising Initiatives is proud to announce their Academic Advising Academy (AAA) Spring 2022 cohort! The AAA is a multilevel, semester-long training and development program for academic advisors at Virginia Tech that was created to help advisors at all levels of experience augment their advising skills. Each cohort of participants is provided with the data, tools, and resources needed to conduct meaningful and relevant academic advising with students to assist student achievement and transition to the university.



Wynnne Avent II
College of Science
Dean's Office



Carolyn Ballard
Department of Human
Development & Family Services



Sarah Bechtel
College of Science
Dean's Office



Jenene Belcher
Real Estate



Jennifer Bradley
Computer Science



Grace Burden
College of Science
Dean's Office



Leigh Anne Byrd
Computer Science



Robin Cooley
College of Science
Dean's Office



Joseph Daniel
University Studies and
Scholarship Support



Ginger Dempsey
Agriculture Leadership
Community Education



Rebekah DeToma
College of Science
Dean's Office



Karen Drake-Whitney
School of Plant and
Environmental Sciences



Page Fetter
University Studies and
Scholarship Support



Hillary Gaskins
Pamplin College of Business



Kayla Goodwin
Communication



Cathy Hill
Mechanical Engineering -
Graduate Level



Amy Kokkinakos
Chemistry



Sarah Kurtz
Higher Education Student



Helen Pegler
Pamplin College of Business



Melanie Sontheimer
College of Science
Dean's Office



Taylor Swan
Psychology



Haley Tucker
Neuroscience



Ryan Underwood
Computer Science



Joseph Welsh
Pamplin College of Business





SPRING 2022 ACADEMIC ADVISOR MENTOR PROGRAM

The Academic Advisor Mentor Program (AAMP) has been created to enhance the professional development of Virginia Tech's academic advisors. This program strives to create an engaged community of professional academic advisors at Virginia Tech and provide participants with information and resources that can be incorporated into their advising curriculum to meet the needs of their unique student populations. Mentors guide mentees in developing professional goals and provide tailored support to each of their mentees. This program aims to create an engaged community of professional advisors at Virginia Tech.



MEET OUR SPRING MENTORS



Dana McGuire
Assistant Director

Academic Advising
Natural Resources & Environment
The Advising Center



Marlana Lester
Director

Academic Advising
College of Engineering



Paige Johnson
Director

Undergraduate Programs
Computer Science



Vivek Shastry
Assistant Director
Undergraduate Advising
College of Science



Vern Ferguson
Academic Advisor
Architecture & Design



ACADEMIC ADVISOR
MENTOR PROGRAM



Congratulations

TO OUR 2022 ADVISING AWARD WINNERS!



2022 Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Academic Advising
Helene Goetz
University Studies & Scholarship Support

"I want my students to always know I celebrate their diversity, embrace their individuality, and appreciate their gifts. We are in this together. I am their biggest ally and supporter, but they are responsible and accountable for the path they choose. I do not make their decisions for them. I'm a guide, their travel agent. They tell me where they want to go and together, we will figure out the best path for success."

2022 Provost's Award for Excellence in Advising
Holly Belcher
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

"I am here to help, to listen without judgement, to empathize, to offer my time and resources, and to be a steadfast support system through one's next step into adulthood. I strive to never make my advisees feel rushed, unheard, overlooked, or misunderstood. Doing so, in any other developmental phase of life would simply be viewed as a form of neglect, which can potentially put at risk one's overall growth and well-being."



2022 Alumni Award for Excellence in Graduate Academic Advising
Holly Matusovich,
Engineering Education



"Quality advising for graduate students is a passion of mine. I see graduate student advising as the most critical aspect of graduate student success and I aim to make a difference on small and large scales through my own research and practice. It has been rewarding to see my graduate students thrive in their post-dissertation experiences and I have really appreciated how many of them stay engaged with my research group and connect with me on a regular basis."



www.advising.vt.edu



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