

# Vibrant Virginia

Vibrant Virginia, piloted over 2018-2019, supports Virginia Tech faculty and students by providing seed grants, hosting regional conversations, and facilitating the co-creation of an academic project.

The program aims to:

- Connect and grow a network of researchers and development practitioners engaged with Virginia Regions
- Enhance the number and quality of University projects and initiatives focused on Virginia's regions and its urban-rural concerns
- Strengthen the long-term vibrancy of Virginia regions through applied research, policy analysis, and engagement projects

## Vibrant Virginia Initial Focus Regions:

- Southwest Virginia
- Southside Virginia
- Hampton Roads
- Northern Virginia

## Vibrant Virginia Initial Target Issues:

- Education & Workforce Development
- Agriculture & the Environment
- Cyber Security & Data Analytics
- Opioid & Health Research
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Community Development & Tourism

## Seed Grants

Description:	Vibrant Virginia anticipates funding for 4 - 8 projects with awards ranging from \$5,000 – 12,000. Funds will support research and projects related to significant urban-rural related public policy issues. Projects must include active engagement with community groups, agencies or organizations. Selected applicants will be expected to prepare a report for organizations engaged in the project and a 3500-word publication for Vibrant Virginia.
Deadline for Application:	Accepting application on a rolling basis
Eligible Applicants:	Virginia Tech faculty, staff and faculty-mentored students
Application Material:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Short abstract (150 words maximum)</li><li>▪ 3-5 page letter outlining the funding amount request, how funds will support the project, timeline, and plan of work for completing the project. In addition, the letter must indicate consultation with the regional agencies, groups, or organization involved in the project</li><li>▪ CV's of the project team members</li><li>▪ Students who apply must do so in tandem with a faculty co-applicant</li><li>▪ Submit application to following point of contact</li></ul>
Point of Contact:	Scott Tate   Email: <a href="mailto:atate1@vt.edu">atate1@vt.edu</a>   Phone: (540) 231-2351

## Regional Conversations

Description:	The regional conversation provide Virginia Tech faculty and community stakeholder partners a platform to share their experiences with current and past economic, community, and workforce development activities. The first regional conversation will be held in Southwest Virginia, with a focus on helping Virginia Tech to become a more effective partner in advancing meaningful community change.
Date:	Southwest Regional Conversation took place June 13 - 14, 2018. Next Regional Conversation in Hampton Roads scheduled for the Fall.
Eligible Participants:	Virginia Tech faculty, staff and faculty-mentored students
To Participate:	Interested participants should submit a brief description of an existing or proposed project, program, or policy to discuss at the Southwest Regional conversation (first conversation). Submit application to following point of contact.
Point of Contact:	Albert Alwang   Email: aalbert1@vt.edu   Phone: (540) 231- 6669

## Academic Project

Description:	The goal of the academic thread is to work with practitioners, scholars, local stakeholders, policymakers, and others to document the co-creation of knowledge as part of the Vibrant Virginia initiative. Academic project team members will be responsible to document the initiative, publish ongoing applied research and scholarship with community partners, and highlight important challenges and opportunities across the urban-rural spectrum. We envision a combination of panels, workshops, and scholarly publication(s) similar to the book <i>Toward One Oregon: Rural-Urban Interdependence and the Evolution of a State</i> .
Next Meeting:	TBD Early Summer
Eligible Applicants:	Virginia Tech faculty and staff
Application Material:	Interested participants should send an email to the following point of contact.
Point of Contact:	Margaret Cowell   Email: mmcowell@vt.edu   Phone: (703) 706 - 8101

### Vibrant Virginia is a collaborative effort led and organized by:

- Outreach & International Affairs
- College Access Collaborative
- School of Public and International Affairs
- Virginia Cooperative Extension
- Policy Strategic Growth Area

