

**Staff Senate Constituency Report to Virginia Tech Board of Visitors**  
**June 19, 2008**  
**Judy Alford, Staff Senate President**

Rector Lutz, members of the Board of Visitors, President Steger, administrators and guests. As always, it is an honor and privilege to speak to you about staff senate at Virginia Tech.

As mentioned at the August meeting, the Staff Senate is actively involved in University governance. We have had a very busy and successful year. I will mention a few of the projects we have worked on this year.

**Promote Diversity Inclusion**

- In September, staff senate along with other organizations at the university supported the Multicultural Faculty / Staff Reception.
- Dr. Kevin McDonald, Vice President, Multicultural Affairs presented the program in September. He introduced to the staff the book entitled “The Inclusion Breakthrough / Unleashing the Real Power of Diversity” by Frederick A. Miller and Judith H. Katz the book discusses diversity inclusion in the workplace. A group from staff senate elected to read the book and participate in a discussion.
- Jane Ann Williams and Ray Plaza presented the program for the McComas Seminar entitled “Defining our Role in an Inclusive Community”. The program which included case studies was very informative and interactive. We have received several positive comments about the seminar. We were fortunate again this year to have representatives from William and Mary, University of Virginia, and George Mason University attend the seminar.

**VT-ENGAGE Program**

- The senate selected the Blacksburg food pantry as our project for this year. To date, we have made 11 deliveries. Senators have worked at the pantry several times. We discovered the pantry needed extra food for the summer as children are out of school and the families do not have the benefit of the school provided lunches. We provided many extra juice boxes, apple sauce, and macaroni and cheese for the children of the area.

**Commission on Staff Policies and Affairs**

- The commission on staff policies and affairs has also had a very busy year. The commission worked closely with the Employee Advisory Committee in developing new policies for university staff. They presented 2 resolutions that were passed by University Council in May.
- In addition the commission worked with Human Resources to implement the first staff leadership award. The award was presented at the

McComas seminar. Melissa Williams, Fiscal Coordinator, in Mechanical Engineering and Linda Correll, Laboratory Facility and Resource Manager, in VBI were the winners this year.

**Staff Associations**

- We had one new staff association form this year. The Provost and Outreach and International Affairs association formed in October. We are working on forming an association in Northern Virginia.
- We have worked diligently this year to determine if we can do a national conference. We are pleased to announce The Staff Senate National Conference committee was formed this month. They will begin planning a national conference for summer 2009. The goal of the conference is to promote shared governance within universities across the nation.

As outgoing staff senate president, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent the staff of Virginia Tech as representative to the Board of Visitors. Also, thank you to President Steger and Dr. McNamee for their support. As evidenced in my previous reports, we have a large group of talented and dedicated staff at Virginia Tech. We will continue to work for the betterment of staff and the university.

Thank you.

Judy Alford