Engagement Leadership Council  
(Formerly Outreach Council)  
September 4, 2014  
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.  
902 Prices Fork Road - Suite 120  
MINUTES


Welcome and Introductions  

Susan Short welcomed the group; self-introductions were made. Susan welcomed guests from Warm Hearth – Mardy Baker and Tambra Meredith – as well as Continuing and Professional Education (VT CLASS) program facilitators – Sam Linkous and Jessica Brow.  

Updates  

Virginia Science Festival  
Susan provided an update regarding the Virginia Science Festival. The week-long celebration will be held October 4, 2014 – October 11, 2014. Numerous events are scheduled in Blacksburg on October 4th as well as at Commonwealth Campus Center locations. Go to: http://virginiasciencefestival.org for additional information. The event is co-sponsored by the Science Museum of Western Virginia and Virginia Tech.  

Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship  

Lifelong Learning Institute  
Council members were provided with information related to a Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech. Provost McNamee issued a charge to explore and expand Virginia Tech programming efforts targeted to a growing retirement community and adult learners. Jerald Walz provided a review of a concept paper focused on opportunities for Lifelong Learning and Virginia Tech. Scott Weimer introduced Sam Linkous and Jessica Brow from Continuing and Professional Education. They provided an overview of current lifelong learning efforts – VT CLASS (Creative Learning Academy for Senior
Scholars) and introduced community partners from Warm Hearth Village – Tambra Meredith and Mardy Baker. VT CLASS is currently delivered in partnership with Warm Hearth Village. Attendance is currently a max of 65 participants per session. For current course information, go to: http://www.cpe.vt.edu/vtclass/. The group also received an overview from current Commonwealth Campus Center offerings. The Virginia Tech Southwest Center participants and supports the Lifelong Learning program at the Southwest Higher Education Center – Abingdon. The Reynolds Homestead, located in Critz, delivers a comprehensive College for Older Adults (http://www.reynoldshomesrtead.vt.edu/CollegeAdults.html). Ed Jones encouraged the group to learn more about cooperative extension offerings particularly in the areas of finance, nutrition, Master Food Volunteer program, and Master Gardeners.

Susan invited individuals to participate in an advisory group to explore and expand lifelong learning opportunities/programs in Blacksburg. Jerry Niles, former Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, has agreed to chair the group. Interested individuals should contact Susan directly.

Other Items/Announcements

Andrea Brunais shared information related to “Save Our Towns” and distributed copies of Outreach and International Affairs’ Outburst publication. Individuals interested in receiving hard copies of these publications should contact Andrea directly.

Gary Kirk, VT Engage, shared information related to the launch of AmeriCorps programs (American Red Cross and Smart Beginnings). September has been designated as “Hunger: A Call to Action” awareness month. Individuals are encouraged to go to the VT Engage calendar to learn more about various service projects – http://www.engage.vt.edu/calendar/.

Future Meeting Dates:

(All meetings will be held from 2-3:15 p.m. at 902 Prices Fork Road, Suite 120, unless otherwise noted):

December 4, 2014
March 5, 2015
June 4, 2015

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan E. Short