

**Engagement Leadership Council – Virtual Meeting Highlights
December 3, 2020 (2:00 - 3:30 p.m.)**



Participants:

Craig Arthur, Head Foundational Instruction, Community Engagement - University Libraries, VT Engage Faculty Fellow

Don Back, Language and Culture Institute

Kristy Collins, Fralin Life Sciences

Natalie Cook, Department of Public Health Sciences in VetMed, VT Engage Faculty Fellow

Catherine Cotrupi, VT Engage

Svetlana Filiatreau, Pamplin College of Business

Guru Ghosh, Outreach and International Affairs

Don Hempson, Outreach and International Affairs

Shelly Jobst, Continuing and Professional Education

Rich Mathieson, Outreach Communications

Tim Miles, Youth Protection Specialist, CALS Extension

Susan Short, Outreach and International Affairs

Debby Stoudt, College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences

Cathy Sutphin, 4-H Youth Development, CALS Extension

Pamela VandeVord, College of Engineering

LaTanya Walker, UCIA

Scott Weimer, Virginia Tech Roanoke Center

Meghan Weyrens Kuhn, VT Engage

Susan Short provided a brief welcome. Participants completed self-introductions and provided updates.

Susan Short provided a reminder about various set aside funds to support conferences, meetings, and events scheduled to be held at the Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center (Inn Incentive Funds) as well as The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center (COTA Small Grants Program).

Tim Miles, newly hired Youth Protection Specialist, provided an overview of his position and a variety of information related to the university's minors policy. He is working with university leaders to develop a registration system for program leaders and volunteers, designing mandatory training, and identifying and institutionalizing a new tool in order to conduct background checks. Tim requested that participants send him copies of any forms that are currently in use in relationship to minors. In addition, he would

like the group to share examples of how minors currently participant in programs. His office has received approval for the use of the Sterling Volunteer Silver screening device. He is exploring using PageUp/LMS to facilitate faculty training. Cathy Sutphin and Tim are anticipating a Spring semester approval of the new policy. Tim graciously responded to numerous questions. He encouraged participants to reach out to him directly if questions surfaced particularly in the are of mandatory screening (e.g., graduate students, volunteers).

Meghan Weyrens Kuhn introduced Catherine Cotrupi, Assistant Director for Campus and Community Engagement, as well as the VT Engage fellows. Catherine provided a comprehensive overview of VT Engage including mission, core values, leadership development, and service learning. Natalie Cook and Craig Arthur provided an overview of this intensive faculty development program. *(Please see the slide deck attached to meeting highlights.)* The focus for faculty fellows is to design high-quality community engagement experiences for students as well as contributing to a larger cadre of engaged experiential leaders. Natalie's project focuses on the topic of program evaluation. Craig's project, Digging in the Crates (VTDITC) utilizes the recording student located on the second floor of Newman Library and functions to foster a sense of community among hip hop artists, fans, and scholars. Applications for the 2021-22 Faculty Fellows cohort will be launched later in the Spring 2021 semester.

As the meeting concluded, it was recommended that we consider inviting Kim Filer (Associate VP for Teaching and Learning) and/or Vicki Pitstick (Director of the Academy for Experiential Learning) to a future Engagement Leadership Council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, March 4, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Susan E. Short
Associate Vice President for Engagement



VT Engage Faculty Fellows Program

Engagement Leadership Council

12.3.20



Panel Introductions

- **Craig Arthur**, Head Foundational Instruction, Community Engagement with the University Library
- **Dr. Natalie Cook**, Assistant Professor of Public Health in the Department of Public Health Sciences in the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech
- **Catherine Cotrupi**, Assistant Director for Campus and Community Engagement
- **Meghan Weyrens Kuhn**, Director

Vision: Our Why

*To equip civic leaders
to create a more just world.*

Mission: What We Do

To facilitate leadership, service learning, and civic engagement experiences that advance community priorities, contribute to student development, and embody *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve.)

Core Values

1. Increasing equity in every aspect of our work
2. Investing in mutually beneficial partnerships
3. Developing self-understanding and leadership identity
4. Advancing community-engaged scholarship



VT Engage: The Center for Leadership & Service Learning

- Service Learning
 - Co-Curricular
 - Day-, weekend-, week-long domestic experiences
 - 1-3 week-long international experiences
 - Curricular
 - Service learning course support
 - Faculty Fellows program
 - Experiential Learning
 - QEP 2020-2030
- Leadership Education
- Civic Engagement



Intent

The goal of the program is to increase the prevalence of and quality of service learning in the curriculum at Virginia Tech through curricular, faculty-led experiences.

These experiences can include community-based work in the areas of service-learning, leadership education, and civic engagement.



Curriculum

- Service, Learning, Reflection
 - Traditional vs Critical
 - Authentic Community Partnerships
 - Tensions in the work
- Experiential Learning
 - VT QEP
- The Scholarship of SL/CE
 - Conferences, Journals, Networks
- Mentorship & connections between cohorts
- Assessment



Previous Fellows

- 2019-2020

- Dr. Matt Komelski
- Dr. Karen Kovaka
- Dr. Freddy Paige

- 2017-2019

- Dr. Elisabeth Austin
- Dr. C.L. Bohannon
- Dr. Kim Carlson
- Dr. Matt Eick
- Dr. Jake Grohs

- 2014-2015

- Dr. Sarah Misyak
- Dr. Takumi Sato
- Dr. Brett Shadle



Previous Fellows: 2019-2020



Dr. Freddy
Paige



Dr. Matthew
Komelski



Dr. Karen
Kovaka



Current Fellows: 2020-2021

Natalie
Cook



Craig
Arthur



(Community-Engaged) Program Evaluation

Natalie E. Cook, PhD

VT Engage Faculty Fellow

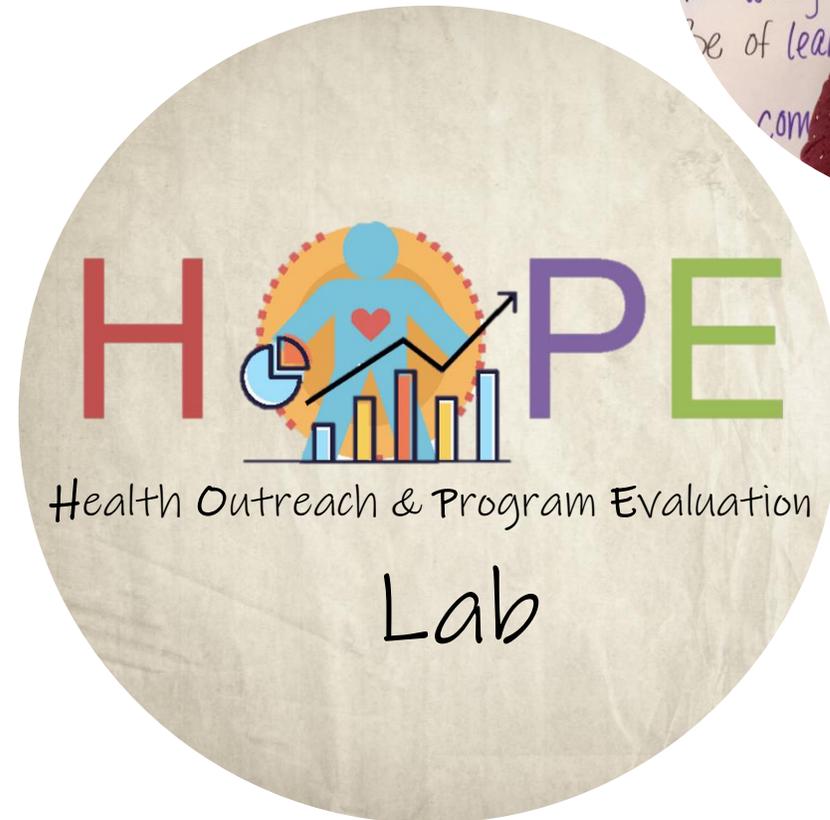
Fall '20-Spring '21

About Dr. Cook (she/her)

- Two-time Hokie (MS & PhD)
- Assistant Professor of Public Health (Population Health Sciences)
- HOPE Lab (50% Research)
- Foci: health equity, and culturally responsive mixed methods community-based research and evaluation

About HDFS/PHS 5644

- Spring 2021
- Cross-listed (HDFS + PHS)
- Community engagement infusion supported by VT Engage





Community-engaged evaluation
experience for the next generation
of human services and public health
professionals

- Course maintains CEPH competencies
 - #11: Select **methods to evaluate** public health programs
 - #18: Select **communication strategies** for different audiences and sectors
 - #20: Describe the importance of **cultural competence** in communicating public health content
- Students complete coursework in partnership with/service of student-selected community-based programs
 - Service-learning – emphasis on **mutuality**
 - Interprofessional skills – **cultural humility**
 - **Culturally responsive evaluation**
 - Leveraging **evaluation to promote social justice/health equity** (transformative evaluation lens)

Preparing for the Spring launch!

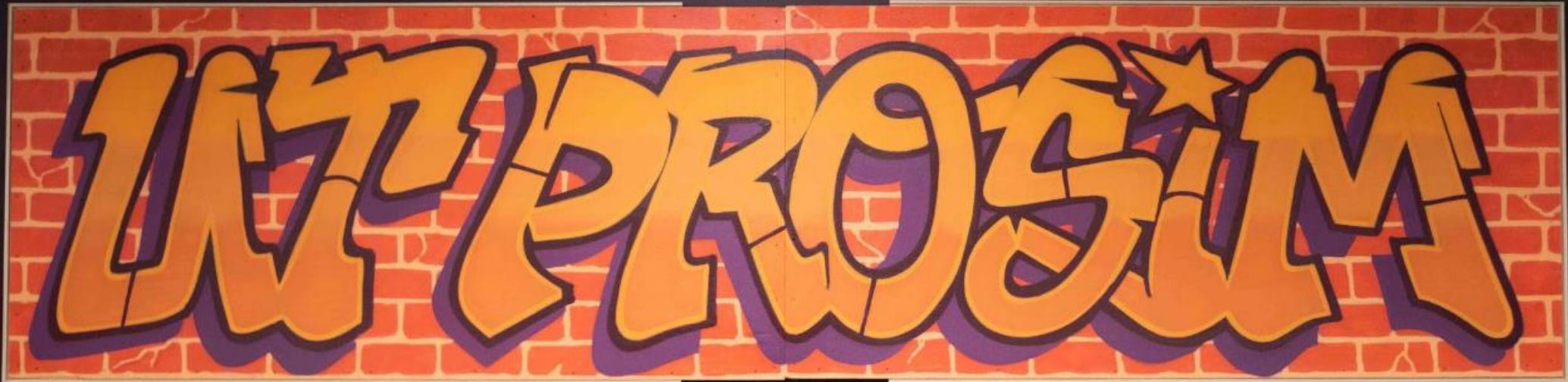
- Synchronous online learning
- Increased need for **intentionality about community-building** in the virtual format
 - Can't benefit from in-person activities/shared meals (orientation and symposium)
- Students select a **local** program
- Current pandemic and sociopolitical moment **reaffirm** justification for course reorientation/community-engaged program evaluation
- **Invaluable support of VT Engage**



Reflection

Craig Arthur
(he/him)
Head, Community Engagement
University Libraries

VTDITC



Why #VTDITC?

“...exists to foster a sense of community among hip hop artists, fans, and scholars on campus. We hope to model that students’ personal interests are worthy of academic study and further institutionalize Hip Hop Studies’ presence on Virginia Tech’s campus. Our monthly seminar series seeks to celebrate Hip hop scholarship through community creation and experiential learning.”



Our guiding mission is...

- to remove barriers to entry
- to recognize art as scholarship
- to learn by doing
- to have fun

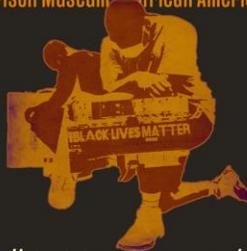




#VTDITC Vol. 22: Hip Hop & Police Brutality

Thursday 9/17 - 8-9:30 pm

Join Dr. Brandy Faulkner (VT Department of Political Science), Dr. Ellington Graves (VT Department of Sociology/Africana Studies & Office for Inclusion & Diversity), Macklyn Mosley (Roanoke-based recording artist) and Dr. Deneen Evans (Radford University Department of Counselor Education) as we discuss hip hop's long history of documenting police violence. This event is the VTDITC community's first collaboration with Roanoke's Harrison Museum of African American Culture.



<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/my/vtditc>

IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY AND DESIRE AN ACCOMMODATION, WELCOME! PLEASE CONTACT CRAIG ARTHUR AT CARTHUR@VT.EDU DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AT LEAST 5 BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

The 6 Components of #VTDITC

- **Community Engagement Fellows**
 - 6 positions fully funded by VT Engage
 - 5 undergraduates & 1 recent MS grad
- **Community Media Literacy Workshops**
 - 100+ since spring 2017
 - Now 100% virtual!
- **Studio Hours**
 - Now virtual as well as in person
- **Monthly Seminar Series**
 - VT's longest running monthly program
 - Now 100% virtual!
- **Curricular**
 - Past courses:
 - AFST 4354/SOC 4124: Fnd. of Hip Hop
 - AFST 4994: The MC
- **Practitioners for Hire**





**#VTDITC: Hip Hop Studies
at Virginia Tech**

**Community-Based Virtual Media Literacy Workshops
Fall 2020
(so far)**

10/10 (Saturday) VT Science Festival / TRIO Educational Talent Search	10/14 (Wednesday) Science Museum of Western Virginia
11/17 (Tuesday) Vinton Public Library	Fridays 2-5 VTDITC Studio Hours Newman Library's Media Design Studio B & Zoom

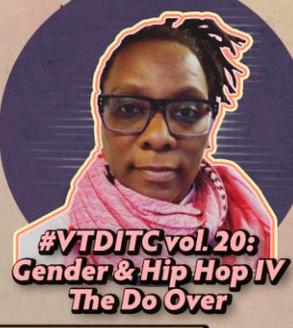
Want more info? crarthur@vt.edu





The Faculty Fellows Program

- **Community of practice** with VT's experts in engaged scholarship
- Overhaul of our **assessment** efforts
 - Moving beyond strictly quantitative
 - Outcomes-focused (both internal and external)
- Locate opportunities for the VTDITC Fellows to **publish and present**
 - InTheLibraryWithTheLeadPipe.org article
 - 2 of the authors are fellows; 1 is an undergraduate
 - 1 presentation so far, another on the way!
- **Vital fiscal support** in a year of tough budgets

**#VTDITC vol. 20:
Gender & Hip Hop IV
The Do Over**

Thursday 10/15 - 7-9pm
<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/my/vtditc>

Join Dr. Shante Paradigm Smalls (Associate Professor of Black Literature & Culture, St. John's University), the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, the Black Cultural Center, and the #VTDITC community as we discuss queer hip hop historiographies. Hosted by #VTDITC Creative Directors Mama P and Jasmine. #VTDITC: community-based experiential learning via hip hop culture.

**#VTDITC Vol. 23:
Hip Hop Entrepreneurship Part II
Making Your Hustle Your Livelihood**
Thursday 11/12 · 7-9 pm



<https://virginiatech.zoom.us/my/vtditc>

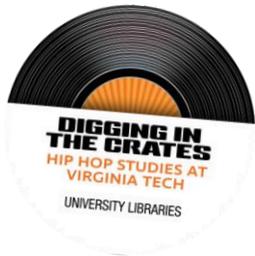
Join Stacy Epps, Esquire (www.yourcreativecounsel.com) and the #VTDITC community as we discuss how to turn your side hustle into your bread and butter.



LGBTQ+ RESOURCE CENTER

If you are an individual with a disability and desire an accommodation, please contact Craig Arthur at 540.231.1761 or email crarthur@vt.edu during regular business hours at least 10 business days prior to the event.

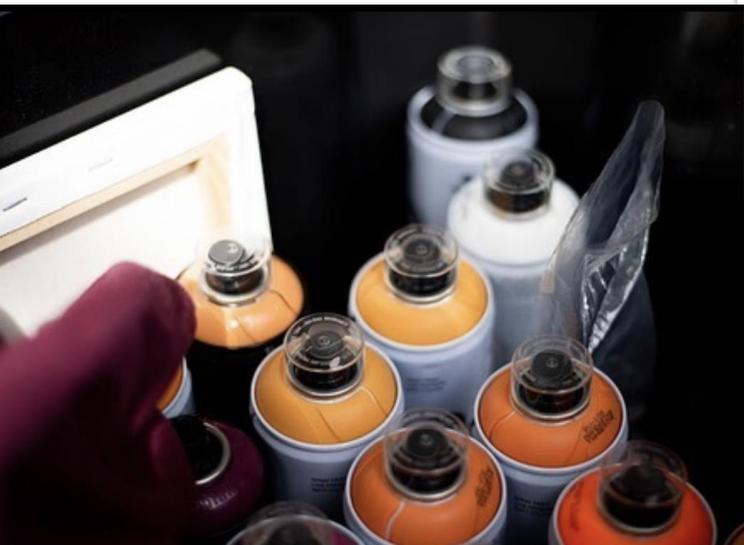
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Questions?

crarthur@vt.edu

@VTDITC (IG)



Future of the Faculty Fellows Program

- Application for the Faculty Fellows 21-22 cohort will be launched late spring 2021
- Individuals will be selected and notified in summer of 2021
- Program follows the academic year schedule for implementation

Connect with our team!

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- **Website:** www.engage.vt.edu
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- **Twitter:** [VT Engage](#)
- **Facebook:** [VTEngage](#)