

**Engagement Leadership Council  
Meeting Highlights – Virtual Only  
December 8, 2022 (2:00 - 3:15 p.m.)**

**Participants:** Nicole Akers for Pam VandeVord (COE), Craig Arthur (Library), Jan Helge Bohn (COIA), Brian Bond (CNRE), Nancy Bradley (School of Education), Kristy Collins (Fralin Life Sciences), Kristin Gehsmann (School of Education), Don Hempson (OIA), Farida Jalalzai (UCIA), Meghan Weyrens Kuhn (VT Engage), Rich Mathieson (OIA), John Provo (Center for Economic and Community Engagement), Susan Short (OIA), Cris Thompson (OIA), Scott Weimer (Roanoke Regional Initiatives)

**Welcome/Introductions**

Susan Short welcomed the group. Participants completed self-introductions.

**General Announcements**

Susan shared information related to the search for the Virginia Tech Southwest Virginia director position. She encouraged the group to share the posting with individuals throughout various networks. The review date is scheduled for January 17, 2023.

**Engagement/Outreach Programs in the News**

Susan shared information related to the new website for Engagement – Virginia Tech Engaged. [Virginia Tech Engaged | Outreach and International Affairs | Virginia Tech \(vt.edu\)](#). She took a few moments to navigate through the site and encouraged ELC members to provide information/stories related to engagement to include on this new site. Susan believes this is a great platform to elevate the significant number of engaged scholarship projects that are underway across the university.

**Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence**

Jan Helge Bohn and Farida Jalalzai shared information related to the various outreach excellence award programs that are currently seeking nominations. These included the Alumni Award for International Excellence and Alumni Awards for Outreach Excellence. In addition, Susan shared information related to the upcoming AP Faculty Awards program.

**Engaged Scholar Network**

Cris Thompson shared information related to the development of a graduate certificate program in community engaged scholarship and provided an overview of the initial meeting of the work group. Lynnette Overby, University of Delaware, met with the group and provided an overview of the work that has been done to establish the Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement. The work group will reconvene in January to discuss next steps.

**Carnegie Foundation 2026 Elective Classification for Community Engagement**

Susan reminded the group that Virginia Tech will participate in the 2026 Carnegie

Reclassification process. ELC members were encouraged to consider participating on the task force/work group or identify colleagues that would be interested in serving.

### **Additional Items**

ELC members provided a number of updates:

Kristy Collins shared that this is the 14<sup>th</sup> year for Kids Tech. Registration is currently open. She also provided an update regarding the CENI partnership – Hokies for a Day program.

John Provo provided an update from a recent visit to Hampton Roads and the Black Brand organization.

Farida Jalalzai – UCIA recently heard a presentation by the Center for Refugee, Migration, and Displacement Studies (Katie Powell) and learned more about a Fall 2023 Study Abroad program in Paris.

Kristin Gehsmann – announced that Brenda Brand is working with a select number of K-12 after school robotics outreach programs.

Craig Arthur is currently working with seven undergraduate students and has received a CENI seed grant to build a recording studio at Radford High School.

Meghan Weyrens Kuhn shared that there are currently three searches underway in VT Engage and discussed the Civic and Democracy Leadership Initiative/Civic Leadership Academy.

Nicole Akers provided an update regarding a graduate certificate in data analytics and Regional Innovation + Tech Hub proposal.

Scott Weimer provided an update regarding various professional leadership programs and encouraged members to identify emerging leaders in their areas to consider future participation. He also provided an update about a partnership with Roanoke City Schools and the Plato program for 2, 3, 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Scott provided brief comments regarding a partnership established by Carillion, Roanoke Valley Addiction Recover, Virginia Tech, and Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge. Potential programs include a major conference in Spring 2024 around the recovery eco-system as well as the development of a Trauma Informed Care short course.

Susan announced that the next meeting of the Engagement Leadership Council will be held **March 16, 2023 at 2 p.m.** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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