

**Engagement Leadership Council
Meeting Highlights – Virtual Only
March 14, 2024 (2:00 - 3:15 p.m.)**



Participants: Brian Bond (CNRE), Catherine Cotrupi (Graduate School), Dave Close (COIA), Diane Deffenbaugh (Office of Engagement), Guru Ghosh (OIA), Pamela Gilchrist (Innovation Campus), Ben Grove (VCE), Gerard Lawson (CLAHS – COE), Allison Mays (VT Southwest Center), Jessica Baty-McMillan (VT Engage), Susan Short (Engagement/OIA), Pamela Smart-Smith (LCI), Cris Thompson (Office of Engagement), Ariana Wyatt (AAD)

Welcome/Introductions

Susan Short welcomed the group. New members completed self-introductions.

Engagement Scholarship Consortium

Susan provided reminders and updates related to the Engagement Scholarship Consortium 2024 conference. The 2024 **annual conference** will be hosted by Oregon State University in Portland, October 9-10, 2024. Awards of Excellence nominations are due March 25, 2024 and conference proposals are due April 2, 2024. Please see [Home - Engagement Scholarship Consortium](#) for additional information. Susan shared that the 2025 ESC annual conference will be held October 8-9, 2025 at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center. Virginia Tech will serve as the host institution and will be supported by ESC East Region member institutions. Guru encouraged the planning committee to get these dates on President Sands' and Provost Clarke's calendars.

Carnegie Foundation 2026 Elective Classification for Community Engagement Updates

Cris Thompson and Susan provided updates related to the work of the Carnegie classification leadership team. The group is currently making specific "section" assignments and moving forward with a draft survey in order to gather exemplary examples of authentic, mutually beneficial community engagement projects.

Program Updates

Brian Bond provided information regarding the Antarctica study abroad experience and shared information related to an upcoming VT faculty visit to Virginia State University (forestry and natural resources).

Catherine Cotrupi (and others) expressed appreciation to OIA/Reynolds Homestead for hosting the visit by Rhondda Thomas and members of the Clemson Cemetery team. The "Call My Name" faculty lecture was held March 12, 2024.

Dave Close, COIA chair, provided an update from the Commission and expressed that a major priority of the group is to focus on developing ways to provide financial support in order to increase the number of students studying abroad.

Diane Deffenbaugh echoed comments related to the Clemson visit. In addition, she encouraged group members to submit stories for the upcoming Virginia Tech Engaged electronic newsletter.

Guru Ghosh encouraged the group to think about adding Summer Camps for youth in the Blacksburg region. Potential topics include Architectural Art and Design (a day camp), coding, and Artificial Intelligence.

Ben Grove provided an update regarding VCE community assessments with Planning Districts. A comprehensive report is being prepared and will be shared with the group in the near future.

Gerard Lawson shared information about a new Living-Learning Community – Reach. Reach LLC is a community dedicated to engaging students who are pursuing, or contemplating, a major that seeks to serve others through careers in education or human services. In addition, Gerard indicated that three "Richmond Experience" courses would be offered this summer.

Allison Mays is working with Pamela Gilchrist and David Matlock (executive director of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center) to bring the USA Drone Soccer competition to Abingdon. In addition, Allison is working on an application from the Wellspring Foundation in order to conduct a needs assessment with educators throughout the region.

Jessica Baty-McMillan shared that VT Engage has funding available to support various engagement opportunities for undergraduate and graduate student(s). Requests/applications need to be submitted by the end of March deadline.

In addition to the Inside Design Summer Program in College of Architecture, Arts, and Design, Arian Wyatt shared that plans are underway to host a summer camp in the performing arts.

Susan announced that the next meeting of the Engagement Leadership Council will be held **June 6, 2024 at 2 p.m.** The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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