

Bud Foster and a Contingent of Hokies Honored at the 22nd Hokie Day in Richmond

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RICHMOND, VA – Virginia Tech students and legendary Virginia Tech defensive coordinator Bud Foster were present in Richmond for the 22nd Hokie Day at the Virginia Capitol on Wednesday, February 19th. The students present met with legislators at the Pocahontas Building, and both the students and Coach Bud Foster were recognized by the Virginia Senate and the House of Delegates.

Hokie Day is a yearly event where students, university personnel, and alumni gather in Richmond to celebrate the accomplishments of the Virginia Tech and advocate to legislators on the university's behalf. The students in attendance are briefed on the inner workings of the General Assembly, and are given the opportunity to meet with legislators and their staff.

On the evening of Tuesday, February 18th, a Legislative Reception was held at the Library of Virginia to signal the start of Hokie Day in Richmond. Approximately 160 people made up of students, university personnel, legislators, other state officials, and alumni attended the celebration to promote Virginia Tech's current and continued success. Deseria Creighton-Barney, the Vice President of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board, gave opening remarks on the behalf of the Alumni Association, and introduced University President, Dr. Tim Sands.



Virginia Tech Students, alongside Coach Bud Foster and President Tim Sands in front of the George Washington Statue inside of the Capitol Building.

President Sands spoke of current Virginia Tech projects, such as the Innovation Campus in Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative. Both projects are highly important for economic development, research, and innovation in the Commonwealth. Additionally, President Sands recognized the attendance of Coach Bud Foster and thanked him for all of his years of service to the Virginia Tech community. The reception served as a time for students and university officials to talk to legislators, legislative staff, and representatives from the Governor's administration about Virginia Tech's yearly accomplishments.

While in the Capitol galleries on February 19th, Coach Bud Foster and the group of students were recognized by Delegate Chris Hurst in the House of Delegates, and Senator John Edwards in the Senate. After their

recognition by both Houses, Senators Chase, Obenshain, and Peake – all Virginia Tech alumni – offered greetings to the group outside of the Senate chamber.

Before their recognition in the Capitol chambers, the student representatives from Virginia Tech met with the offices of Delegates and Senators at the Pocahontas Building. The Delegate offices that the students visited were the offices of Delegates Hala Ayala, Lee Carter, Chris Hurst, Mark Keam, David LaRock, Jay Leftwich, Joe McNamara, Kathleen Murphy, Ken Plum, Margaret Ransone, David Reid, Nick Rush, Mark Simon, and Suhas Subramanyam. The Senate office visits included the offices of Senators John Bell, Jennifer Boysko, John Cosgrove, John Edwards, Barbara Favola, Ryan McDougle, Jeremy McPike, Mark Peake, Chap Petersen, Dick Saslaw, and David Suetterlein.



Virginia Tech Students pose for a picture with Delegate David LaRock.



President Tim Sands gives remarks at the Library of Virginia.

Hokie Day is a collaborative event between the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Office of State Government Relations, and the Student Government Association. The event is crucial to the success of Virginia Tech, as it offers opportunities to recognize the university's accomplishments, as well as commend students, alumni, faculty, and personnel.

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