20th Annual Hokie Day Celebrated as a Success at a Time of Logistical Change at the General Assembly

Friday, February 2, 2018

Virginia Tech students, alumni, faculty, and administration from across the Commonwealth ushered in the 20th Annual Hokie Day at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on Tuesday, January 30th. The passionate group of Hokies converged on the state capital to promote the university and issues central to higher education.

Hokie Day proceedings commenced with a Legislative Reception at the Library of Virginia on the evening of Monday, January 29th. Over 125 attendees comprised of students, alumni, university personnel, state legislators, and staff assembled to celebrate Virginia Tech’s present success and look to the future. During the gathering, university associates welcomed the opportunity to mingle with legislators and representatives of the governor’s administration to discuss ways in which the institution is advancing statewide priorities in areas such as research and development.

Matt Winston, Virginia Tech’s Senior Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations, initiated remarks by welcoming attendees and contributing material on the vibrancy of the Hokie Nation. President Tim Sands then informed the group of the university’s progress and current ventures important to the Commonwealth. Following his annotations, President Sands introduced Ralph Northam, who was recently inaugurated as the 73rd Governor of Virginia. Governor Northam thanked the group of Hokies for their commitment to higher education and extended his pledge to foster a strong working relationship with Virginia Tech on matters imperative to the state. He concluded his comments with a familiar and resounding, “Go Hokies!”

While Hokie Day is typically a large-scale event bringing together dozens of university activists, measures were scaled back this year to account for the impeding relocation of state legislators during construction of a new General Assembly Building. Nevertheless, students associated with SGA conducted legislative visits to discuss Virginia Tech’s priorities in areas such as student financial assistance, research, and development.

Legislative meetings included Delegates Dawn Adams, Richard Bell, Jeffrey Bourne, Karrie Delaney, Charniele Herring, Tim Hugo, Chris Hurst, Jason Miyares, Lee Ware, and Senators

Following member visits, students, faculty, and alumni were recognized on the floors of the House of Delegates and Senate. Delegate Nick Rush introduced the students to the House, and before his colleagues asked that “everyone please join me in imagining Enter Sandman playing loudly in the background as we welcome this great group of Hokies back to the Hill.” Speaker Kirk Cox followed suit by acknowledging the event and greeting the participants.

Down the hall, Senator John Edwards kindly received the group in the Virginia Senate – proclaiming Hokie Day and stating how important Virginia Tech is for the academic and economic vitality of the Commonwealth. Similarly, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax followed up with convivial remarks as the group stood in the balcony. Fairfax also noted that both Senators Edwards and Obenshain were proudly sporting maroon and orange ties in honor of the occasion.

Hokie Day is a collaboration among the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Office of State Government Relations, and the Student Government Association. Altogether, the trio is hailing the event as a successful advancement of the university’s initiatives in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The event is a significant part of Virginia Tech’s long-term success as it highlights university accomplishments and recognizes students, alumni, faculty, and personnel.

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