



Richmond in Maroon and Orange: 21st Annual Hokie Day Held at the State Capitol

Thursday, February 14, 2019

RICHMOND, VA – The 21st Annual Hokie Day was held Tuesday, February 13, 2019, at the Virginia State Capitol. A sizeable group of Virginia Tech students, alumni, faculty, and administrative staff from all across the Commonwealth joined together in Richmond to promote the university and advocate for issues important to higher education.

Immediately prior to Hokie Day, the Virginia Tech Legislative Reception was held at the Library of Virginia on the evening of February 11th. Approximately 175 attendees comprised of students, alumni, university personnel, state legislators, and employees of the Commonwealth assembled to celebrate Virginia Tech’s present success and look to the future. First, Deseria Creighton Barney, President-Elect of the Virginia Tech Alumni Association Board, spoke on behalf of Hokie alumni and introduced President Tim Sands. During his remarks, Sands highlighted recent university advancements – including the planned Virginia Tech Innovation Campus in Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative. Both state-



Hokie Day Students Congregate Between the Two Houses of the Virginia General Assembly in Front of the Statue of George Washington. Photo Courtesy of Hannah Pajewski.

sponsored ventures are examples of the ways in which the university is working collaboratively to help the Commonwealth attract much-needed talent and economic development. During the gathering, university associates welcomed the opportunity to mingle with legislators, legislative staff, 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, health sciences, agriculture, and computer science.

The 2019 General Assembly session marks the second year that state legislators have occupied the Pocahontas Building during the construction of the new General Assembly Building. Nevertheless, a considerable number of students were able to participate in Hokie Day to attend

committee hearings, meet with lawmakers and their aids, and attend regular session in both houses of the Assembly.

The legislators and offices visited include: Del. Rob Bell, Del. Jeff Campbell, Del. Tim Hugo, Del. Chris Hurst, Del. Paul Krizek, Del. Steve Landes, Del. Dave LaRock, Del. Joe McNamara, Del. Jason Miyares, Del. Chris Peace, Del. Kenneth Plum, Del. Sam Rasoul, Del. David Reid, Del. Nick Rush, Del. Schuyler VanValkenburg, Sen. Dick Black, Sen. Creigh Deeds, Sen. Bill DeSteph, Sen. Siobhan Dunnivant, Sen. John Edwards, Sen. Janet Howell, Sen. David Marsden, Sen. Ryan McDougale, Sen. Bill Stanley, Sen. David Suetterlein, and Sen. Scott Surovell. Before attending session, some of the students and alumni were escorted onto the House floor by Del. Chris Hurst, who represents the Virginia Tech Blacksburg campus.



Students on the Floor of the Virginia House of Delegates with Del. Chris Hurst. Photo Courtesy of Del. Hurst via [Twitter.com/ChristHurstVA](https://twitter.com/ChristHurstVA)

While in the gallery of the House of Delegates, students were recognized by Del. Nick Rush, who proclaimed the 21st Annual Hokie Day from the floor. Rush thanked students, faculty, and alumni for traveling to Richmond and expressed the Commonwealth’s appreciation for the positive economic impact Virginia Tech has on our state. Similarly, Sen. John Edwards welcomed Hokie Day attendees to the Capitol from the Senate floor – where a resounding “Go Hokies” was chanted throughout the chamber. Between House and Senate visits, the students were welcomed by Senators Mark Obenshain and Mark Peake – both Virginia Tech alumni.



Students Talk with State Sen. Mark Obenshain, a Fellow Hokie.

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 pleased with the success of 2019 Hokie Day proceedings. The event is a significant measure of Virginia Tech’s long-term success as it highlights university accomplishments and recognizes students, alumni, faculty, and personnel.

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