

Virginia Tech Language
and Culture Institute

BRINGING THE WORLD TO VIRGINIA TECH



GLOBAL INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS





DR. DONALD BACK

Virginia Tech Language
and Culture Institute
director
dback@vt.edu



PATRICIA PARERA

Associate director
for partnerships and
new enterprises
patric7@vt.edu

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

As a university with a global outlook, Virginia Tech addresses society's needs locally and around the world and encourages greater understanding of our interdependent world. As an international programs arm of the university, the Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (LCI) supports that mission by promoting intercultural competence and understanding by connecting people across borders and disciplines. We inspire globally minded students, scholars, and professionals through transformative learning, innovative collaborations, and cross-cultural engagement.

By developing innovative partnerships with governments, organizations, and higher-education institutions around the world, we help share the expertise of Virginia Tech's renowned faculty. In addition, the LCI is the university's primary recruiter for international students.

We live in an ever-evolving international landscape where knowledge of the world is a necessity, not an option. For those of us dedicated to a system of higher education that is focused on discovering and disseminating new knowledge while also preparing the next generation of global citizens, there is no more important task than creating an environment in which international partnerships and exchanges are encouraged and collaboration can flourish.

Donald Back, Ph.D.

MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS



International
development
and capacity building



Leadership development



Intercultural training



Customized academic
certificate programs



Academic preparation



Soft skills instruction



EN Intensive English for
international students
and contracted groups

"TODAY, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO VIEW OUR MISSION IN ANYTHING LESS THAN A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL CONTEXT. OUR STUDENTS ARE GLOBAL CITIZENS. THEY EXPECT TO BE PREPARED TO COMPETE GLOBALLY, AND WE NEED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO PROVIDE THOSE OPPORTUNITIES."

— VIRGINIA TECH PRESIDENT TIM SANDS

A GLOBAL LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, better known as Virginia Tech, is a public university serving the Commonwealth of Virginia, the nation, and the world.

Founded in 1872, Virginia Tech is the largest and most comprehensive university in Virginia. Through its focus on teaching and learning, research and discovery, and outreach and engagement, the university creates, conveys, and applies knowledge to expand personal growth and opportunity, advance social and community development, foster economic competitiveness, and improve the quality of life.

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech takes a hands-on, engaging approach to education, preparing scholars to be leaders in their fields and communities.

AMONG THE TOP 50 RESEARCH SCHOOLS

Virginia Tech generates more than **\$504 million** for research programs, ranking it **44th in the nation** according to the National Science Foundation (NSF). Nearly 80 percent of Virginia

Tech's research portfolio is funded by competitive awards from the federal government and funding agencies such as the NSF, USAID, and the U.S. departments of defense, health and human services, transportation, agriculture, and energy.

\$1.4 BILLION

annual budget

33,000

Students

4,000

international students

16:1

student-faculty ratio

9

colleges and graduate school

150

master's and doctoral degree programs

100+

bachelor's degree programs

135+

buildings on main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia

WWW.VT.EDU

CONNECTING VIRGINIA TECH AND YOU

Invent cancer treatments. Build resilient communities. Lead the world in cybersecurity, advance the science of sustainability, and create technology that changes how we live. That's just the beginning of the impact we can make together.

At Virginia Tech, collaboration is at our core. Our world-class faculty, staff, and students have worked side by side with business and industry to accelerate entrepreneurialism and enhance economic impact. Providing research power, intellectual capital, and job creation, Virginia Tech is a catalyst for growth and innovation and a resource to help businesses be more competitive.

With a strong commitment to international development, transformational partnerships, and capacity building, the **Language and Culture Institute** has provided programs and services for academic and professional development

for more than 40 years. We build partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and institutions around the world to share Virginia Tech's expertise.

Through its extensive academic, corporate, and diplomatic networks, the LCI connects leaders who have a global view, cultural awareness, and the belief that collective action and collaboration produce greater outcomes.

Relationships are powerful and are the foundation for change. Building relationships with people from different cultures is key to building agency and actions to effect change and achieve significant goals.

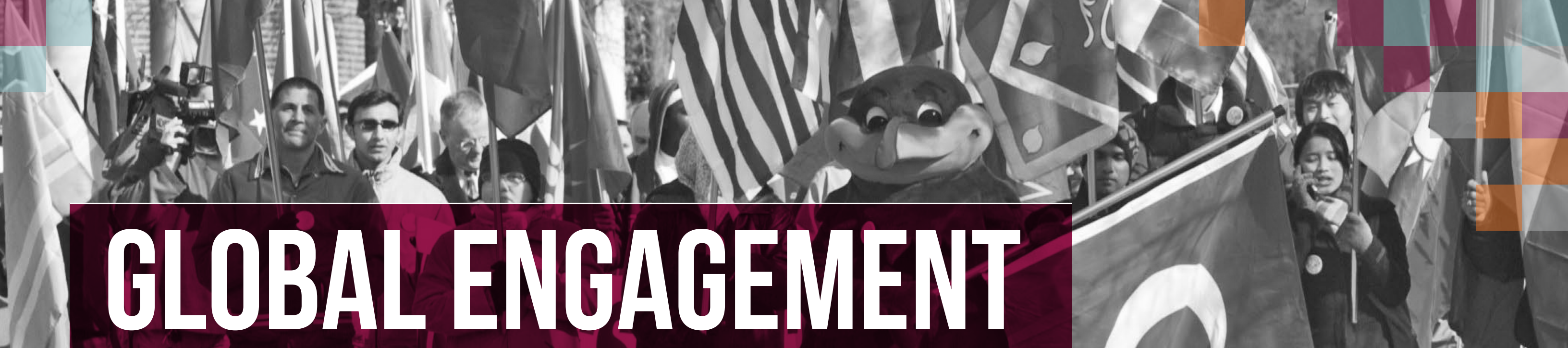


» Partner in research » Invest in students » Train your workforce » Recruit talent »

Develop higher-education linkages » Build strategic networks » Collaborate with

industry leaders » Tap into the latest technology » Promote internationalization





GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The **Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute** has a long history of collaborating internationally. Our partners include universities, institutions of higher education, governmental agencies, nongovernmental agencies, and private-sector companies.

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAMS AROUND THE WORLD



ON THE WEB
www.lci.vt.edu/global

The Language and Culture Institute maintains close ties with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as with organizations such as IREX and the Institute of International Education. Through such partnerships, the LCI extends the university's reputation and attracts some of the world's most prestigious scholars — including Fulbright Scholars, Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows, and Mandela Washington Fellows.



VT VIRGINIA TECH™

For more than 40 years, the Language and Culture Institute has been helping international students meet their personal, academic, and professional goals. The institute is part of **Outreach and International Affairs**, whose mission is to share the best of Virginia Tech by working alongside communities across the world.

Virginia Tech maintains **bilateral exchange partnerships** with 50 universities around the world. In addition, there are more than 150 active memoranda of understandings with partner universities. Activity includes student exchange on graduate and undergraduate levels, research collaborations, and dual degree programs.



CAPACITY

Identifying constraints that prevent people, governments, and nongovernmental organizations from reaching their goals, the Language and Culture Institute builds capacity by creating partnerships that build knowledge, develop skills, and enable restructuring. Our customized training will help you define problems and issues and formulate effective solutions. We have extensive experience in carrying out all stages of short- and long-term program evaluations, from assessing program process and implementation to examining outcomes and impact.

Institutional capacity building

Cultivating global higher-education partnerships

Training for university faculty and administrators

Strategic planning

Creating and managing training programs

Leadership development

Assessing program process and implementation

Customized training

We listen to our partners' particular challenges and needs, enabling us to respond appropriately, supportively, and quickly to their evolving priorities. Utilizing a learner-centered approach, we harness Virginia Tech's intellectual, research, community engagement, and capacity building expertise. We can provide training at your location, at our campus in Blacksburg, Virginia, or at our location near Washington, D.C. We also deliver distance learning through online courses.



LEADERSHIP

Our global society needs leaders and entrepreneurs to shape progress toward innovation, new technologies, and civic and cultural engagement. The Language and Culture Institute has developed educational programs that instill in our students more comprehensive understanding and broader perspectives to address such issues, as well as the leadership skills needed for the global century.

We believe that highly effective leadership skills are learned through a process of self-reflection, training, experience, and a willingness to challenge oneself and challenge conventional ways of problem solving.

Our training can be customized to suit your organization's specific needs.

Program benefits

- Develop a better sense of your individual leadership style and your role as a leader
- Increase your range of effective leadership approaches and how to apply different techniques depending on the situation at hand
- Understand the true drivers of influence and power in organizations and how to unmask counterfeit influence
- Learn how to build a successful team and how to link individual and team goals to company strategy
- Learn how to manage conflict more effectively through simulations and group activities
- Learn from local, state, and international leaders, as well as industry and nonprofit leaders



Commitment to community service

Dedicated to its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech takes a hands-on, engaging approach to education, preparing scholars to be leaders in their fields and communities. As a public land-grant university, a commitment to service is the very foundation of the university's culture. We are united by a dedication to the idea that communities and universities can work together to improve quality of life and to enhance learning. As part of its leadership training, the LCI organizes group and individual service projects with local nonprofit and volunteer organizations.



The LCI’s innovative **Foundation Year Program** prepares students for the rigors of successfully completing university course work at Virginia Tech or another U.S. college or university. The program is intended to develop the independence, motivation, and academic skills required for undergraduate study. It marries introductory college-level math and science courses with classes on academic skills and preparation for college entrance examinations.

Sample courses

FALL SEMESTER

- Academic Writing
- Math 1205/Calculus Part I
- TOEFL iBT Preparation
- SAT Preparation

SPRING SEMESTER

- Scientific and Technical Writing
- Introduction to Programming in C++
- Physics or Chemistry
- Math 1206/Calculus Part II

Dedicated faculty members provide extensive tutoring in all subject areas. In addition, they lead workshops to help students learn study skills, be academically honest, and also help prepare for and complete their Common Application. Other topics include:

- **Making the Grade** — Provides an overview of the critical pieces to college success, including effective study and test-taking strategies, working with faculty, and more.
- **Time Management** — Helps students overcome the challenge of managing their time so that it is not controlling the outcomes of success in their classes.
- **Test-Taking Tips** — Presents a three-step approach to successful test taking. Students learn what to do before a test to be better prepared, during a test to reduce anxiety and increase performance, and after the test to learn from mistakes.
- **The Final Stretch** — Tips and techniques to ensure that students do well in their finals and beyond.



Although a strong background in traditional “hard” skills such as writing, mathematics, and science will always have its place in the academic and business worlds, an increasing number of employers seek employees with a strong foundation in “soft” skills. These include the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and the willingness to learn through experience, and are applicable across multiple disciplines and careers.

Soft skills include ...

- Oral and written communication
- Teamwork/collaboration
- Work ethic/self-motivation/dependability
- Critical thinking/questioning/problem solving
- Leadership/influencing
- Self-advocacy
- Ability to work under pressure
- Creativity/innovation
- Time management
- Attention to detail
- Tolerance for ambiguity and diversity

Faculty members at the Language and Culture Institute are experienced in tailoring a full complement of education programs to meet the development goals of students and professionals at every level.

We specialize in teaching **intercultural competence** — the ability to communicate effectively and appropriately with people of other cultures.

The potential benefits of increasing intercultural competence are many, and range from the prosaic: increasing career success — to the profound: contributing to the creation of a more peaceful and harmonious world.





MANDELA WASHINGTON FELLOWSHIP

DELIVERABLES

- Civic leadership skills-building instruction and activities with a focus on experiential learning
- Seminars focused on U.S. case studies in topics such as education, gender equality, health, human rights, and poverty reduction
- Engagement and networking activities with Virginia Tech faculty and community members
- Hands-on community service activities

The Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative. Initiated in 2010, YALI aims to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

The Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute was one of about 40 institutions selected by the Department of State to host the prestigious Fellowship in 2016. The LCI hosted a six-week Civic Leadership Institute oriented toward Fellows who are serving the public through nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, or volunteerism.

Civic Leadership Institutes build technical and leadership capacity in areas such as citizenship, community building, economic development, grass-roots activism, political organizing and leadership, and strategic problem solving.

Virginia Tech's class of 25 Fellows participated in academic sessions, cultural and social activities, networking, and community service and engagement.



HUMPHREY FELLOWSHIP

Virginia Tech is one of only two universities in the United States chosen by the U.S. State Department and IIE to host the long-term English language training component of the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program.

The program brings accomplished young and midcareer professionals from designated developing nations and emerging democracies to the United States for a year of professional development and related academic study and cultural exchange. Humphrey Fellows have demonstrated leadership skills and a record of public service and have had little or no previous travel experience in the United States.

The Language and Culture Institute has hosted more than 100 Fellows since 2007. During the intensive 20-week program, the Fellows increase their English language proficiency and understanding of American culture. They also gain leadership skills and intercultural development. The program features extensive, meaningful exposure to both the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities.

DELIVERABLES

- Customized English language instruction
- Intercultural training workshops
- Networking opportunities with Virginia Tech faculty, government agencies, and international development organizations
- Cultural exploration program



IRAQI KURDISTAN

DELIVERABLES

- Two pre-conference workshops in Erbil, Kurdistan
- Semesterlong online courses in higher-education leadership, teaching technology, and university governance
- Capstone experience with strategic planning and action research final project presentations in Blacksburg

The Iraqi Kurdistan Rural University Partnership Program helps university administrators and faculty members create vital connections to the global academic community and provides capacity-building opportunities that promote higher-education reform in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

In partnership with IREX and with funding from the U.S. Embassy in Iraq, the program provides technical assistance to strengthen university administration, reform English language curricula, and enhance instructional methods in English departments. With the cooperation of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, nine universities from across Iraqi Kurdistan took part in the program over a two-year program.

The program created opportunities for the Kurdish university administrators to develop leadership skills to better address management challenges. Faculty members, meanwhile, improved their instruction by learning to utilize student-centered and problem-based teaching methods.

SAUDI ARABIA

A pilot English program for King Abdullah University of Science and Technology was developed at Virginia Tech, and since 2011, the Language and Culture Institute has hosted the King Abdullah Gifted Student Program.

Owing to its strong reputation with the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education, the Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission, and the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the institute welcomes hundreds of students from Saudi Arabia and across the Middle East each year. The institute has also hosted students from many Saudi companies, including Saudi Aramco.



CHINA

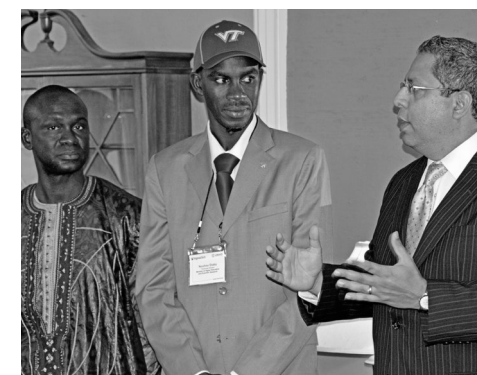
Partnering with the University of Science and Technology of China, the institute's Summer Program for Scientific Communication prepared undergraduates to continue on to graduate studies in the United States through a highly concentrated, scientifically focused English and academic skills program.

Participants built writing skills for research papers on current scientific affairs, gave presentations on and participated in discussions about current events and issues in science, and visited laboratories and met faculty involved in cutting-edge research.

MALAYSIA

Twenty high school math and science teachers from rural Malaysia were selected to participate in a two-month teacher-training program at the Language and Culture Institute's location near Washington, D.C. The program blended English language instruction and training with 21st-century teaching methodology and practice.

To integrate technology into the classroom, participants practiced skills such as setting up wikis, making and editing collaborative documents, building and using online surveys, and sharing content-specific websites for math and science classes.



SENEGAL

The USAID/Education and Research in Agriculture project worked to improve the system of agricultural education at the college level, increase exports, and fight against hunger and food insecurity in the West African nation of Senegal.

Given that much of the literature and research on food security is published only in English, the institute's role was to enhance teaching of English as a foreign language at participating Senegalese universities. Seminars and workshops for this group introduced online delivery of English instruction, techniques for teaching English with few resources, and teaching English for specific purposes.

We are a flexible program provider with the skills, experience, and expertise to customize on-site and off-site training, professional development, and capacity-building programs and projects to meet diverse education needs. Contact us today at lci-info@vt.edu or 1-540-231-9814 to see how we can help you.

Virginia Tech is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.



CONTACT US

Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute

840 University City Blvd., Suite 2

Blacksburg, VA 24061

Phone: 1-540-231-9814

Email: lci-info@vt.edu



VIRGINIA TECHTM

WWW.LCI.VT.EDU