



Dean
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Blacksburg, Virginia

To protect and enhance animal, human, and environmental health and welfare through: The education of a diverse population of professional and post-graduate students in preparation for careers in the broad areas of veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and public health; The creation, dissemination and application of new medical knowledge via discovery, publication, education, and engagement; Provision of excellent and compassionate clinical service to animal owners and producers in Virginia and Maryland.

–VMCVM Mission Statement

THE SEARCH

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) – a partnership of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland – welcomes applications and nominations for its next Dean. VMCVM is unique among schools of veterinary medicine: it spans two major research universities and their respective locations, and has enabled a mix of classic and innovative training and research foci. Its programs are highly regarded thanks to talented faculty and a culture of collaboration within the college and across both universities. The VMCVM recently announced the most diverse and competitive applicant pool for the DVM program in its history, has a thriving Masters in Public Health (MPH) program, and recently added undergraduate education with the new BSPH degree program. Construction of a new Comparative Oncology Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia is underway and will further support the VMCVM research enterprise and PhD and MS degree programs. The sum total is a college with strong momentum positioned to advance veterinary medicine, pathobiological sciences, and public health in novel ways that leverage the strengths of two campuses and a regional geography.

The college seeks a dean who will capitalize on its unique strengths and help promote innovation and continued excellence in research, education programs, and clinical delivery. The next leader will bring exceptional leadership skills and a depth of experience in academic administration, a strong and innovative vision for the future of veterinary medicine and public health, a history of creating robust interdisciplinary partnerships, and energy and enthusiasm for promoting the work of the college. The dean will play a public role with university, state, regional, and national stakeholders to further the mission of VMCVM and advocate for resources and support for its important work.

A representative search committee has been convened to conduct the search and to recommend finalists to the provost and president of Virginia Tech, with the collaborative support of colleagues and leaders at the University of Maryland. The university is assisted in the recruitment by the executive search firm, Isaacson, Miller. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

A three-campus professional school, the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a college operated through a long-standing partnership between two land-grant universities. One of 30 colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States, the VMCVM has more than 700 students studying at the college. Current enrollment includes 480 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students, 130 Master of Public Health students, 100 graduate students pursuing either Master of Science (M.S.) or Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees, and 30 interns and residents. Starting with the DVM Class of 2016, the college expanded its number of admits to 120 per DVM class: 50 Virginia residents, 30 Maryland residents, and the remainder at-large applicants, including up to six West Virginia residents.

The college offers a four-year professional program leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree and graduate programs leading to the Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy degree in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences. Through this combination of professional and degree programs, students can complete a dual degree DVM/PhD. An important and unique public health dimension defines the VMCVM: its Department of Population Health Sciences administers Virginia Tech's Master of Public Health (MPH) program and the college offers students the additional opportunity to participate in graduate studies through the dual degree DVM/MPH program.

The main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia features the Veterinary Teaching Hospital where nearly 79,000 animals are treated annually through hospital visits and field services, as well as the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM). Other college locations include the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center, a premier full-service equine hospital located in Leesburg, Virginia and the Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park, Maryland.

The college is thriving and has benefitted from stable and capable leadership: Cyril Clarke served as the fourth dean of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine for nearly five years, and in 2019 was appointed as Executive Vice President and Provost at Virginia Tech. As the college looks to its future, the next Dean will have multiple strengths to build upon. VMCVM is strongly valued throughout the region and also plays a vital role in advancing the universities' education and research missions, training tomorrow's veterinarians and furthering interdisciplinary research through many centers and collaborations with other colleges. The VMCVM has a strong focus on translational science through initiatives such as collaboration with the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, and faculty working in translational medicine in Roanoke. The college's Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) is the only center of its kind in the country. Established more than 20 years ago, it is a key national resource for training veterinary students and graduate veterinarians for key roles in industry and federal agencies directing policy and protecting public health. In 2016, the college launched an innovative new

veterinary education curriculum and gained approval for its first undergraduate degree program in 2018 (the first students will be admitted to the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health program in the fall of 2019). Public Health degrees are an integral component of the college's One Health initiative, which recognizes the close linkages between animal health, human health, and the environment, and reflects the college's engagement with Virginia Tech's growing academic health center in Roanoke.

THE DEAN

Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Provost at Virginia Tech, the dean is the chief academic and executive officer of the VMCVM. This leader sets the strategic vision and leads the college in pursuit of its goals to provide a high-quality environment for teaching, learning, research, and clinical service; leads the recruitment, education, and graduation of a high quality and diverse DVM, graduate and undergraduate student body; invests in faculty development to enhance Virginia Tech's and the University of Maryland's reputations as leading research universities and as leaders in education; and increases global recognition through opportunities and activities including strategic partnerships in education, research, and clinical practice.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

To ensure VMRCVM's continued growth, vitality, and distinction, the next dean will be expected to address several key opportunities and specific challenges:

Engage all stakeholders to ensure a common purpose and excitement about the college's future.

The Dean must be a unifier and passionate advocate for the college's future, engaging all stakeholders around shared priorities. This leader will be committed to engagement, openness, and transparency in leading the college so that all have a voice and see the importance of their contributions. The Dean will champion and celebrate the contributions of faculty and staff and support their professional development and actively partner with external stakeholders to assure strong support for mutually beneficial approaches. By engaging all stakeholders in the future success of the college, the Dean will continue to raise aspirations, energize the community, and unify it to take on its challenges in a spirit of shared responsibility. The Dean must take every opportunity to make sure people are heard, leading a collaborative effort to develop a clear vision, and then execute that vision.

Shape a strategy for long-term success in a changing field

In order to stay ahead of rapid changes in interdisciplinary science, education, and patient care, the Dean will bring a far-sighted vision that builds on VMCVM's success and assets. The VMCVM's unique structure as a regional college presents challenges and pathways to differentiation. Inherent in the role is leading multiple sites, balancing expectations and needs of two universities, and finding synergies and emerging opportunities in clinical care and research. The successful dean will view and leverage these as opportunities for differentiation and innovation. Concurrently, the dean will map and secure resources to support the college's mission.

The college is well run and on a sustained upward trajectory. This is not a deanship requiring radical reinvention or direction change. However, the significance of ongoing external challenges and opportunities means that this is a deanship requiring a significant appetite for innovation and collaboration.

Promote and sustain external partnerships

The college has a long history of leveraging partnerships, and as the only college of veterinary medicine that bridges two land-grant universities, the opportunities for collaboration beyond academic units at the university are many. Its collaborations with the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Sciences Research Institute, the Virginia Tech - Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences, the Fralin Life Sciences Institute, and various other research institutes and departments present an opportunity for it to have a major impact in high-priority areas for both universities. More broadly, its proximity to the Washington, D.C. region presents opportunities to connect with federal agencies and a cross-section of industry and employers not usually thought of in veterinary medicine. A recent collaboration with Humane Rescue Alliance in Washington, D.C. has further strengthened the college's partnerships in the national capital region. The next dean will need to be a connector and strong communicator who will nurture existing relationships and develop new ones.

In addition, the dean will inherit strong relationships with state associations and agencies, including a formal partnership with Virginia Department of Health; alumni; practitioners in the region, the state legislatures; and clients who have sought care for their animals at the college's clinical facilities. The positive engagements many have had with the college provide fertile ground to seek additional support – financial and otherwise.

Develop resources and be a visible and engaged external fundraiser.

The college is financially stable, with strong student demand, tuition levels in the middle of its peer group, and a diverse array of revenue streams. However, it is not immune to the pressures created by declining state support, and concern about heavy student debt loads among veterinary education leaders and students nationwide. The Dean will operate with a strategic view on funding models and develop revenue streams in areas other than tuition and state support. As the face of the college, the Dean will enthusiastically tell its story to alumni, corporate leaders, grateful clients, and other high potential supporters, having the benefit of drawing upon a large alumni group and tens of thousands of grateful clients who benefit from the college's services every year. The next Dean will effectively communicate to diverse audiences, delivering a clear and concise message about the college's strategy, programs, impact, and opportunity.

Continue to grow research and sustain growth in a competitive environment

VMCVM research plays an important role that must continue to increase for the college to thrive. With world-class research groups in virology, immunology, public health, and regenerative medicine, the VMCVM plays a leading role in One Health approaches. The college's unique presence on the campuses of the top research universities in Virginia and Maryland and the proximity to major federal funding agencies in the D.C. area offer still more opportunities to grow its research profile. The Dean will need to tap into this potential at a time of intense competition among veterinary schools and faculty in veterinary, biomedical sciences, and public health areas.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications, skills, experiences, and personal qualities:

- Earned DVM, as well as an advanced degree and/or board certification and a distinguished record of excellence in research or scholarship that would qualify for rank of professor in an academic department in the college.
- Demonstrated successful leadership in veterinary medical education.
- Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills, ability to effectively lead and work collaboratively with many and diverse constituencies.
- Demonstrated commitment to building a strong learning environment for students that stresses academic quality, student engagement, experiential learning, global perspectives, and the judicious use of innovative delivery strategies, including those involving technology.
- Evidence of commitment to addressing major public health challenges facing both animal and human populations.
- Vision and ability to advance the research agenda of the college and universities, including interdisciplinary and campus-wide initiatives.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in planning, administration, personnel, and fiscal management.
- Evidence of strong commitment to inclusion and diversity.
- Successful experience or demonstrated potential in fundraising, development activities, and collaboration with industry.
- Demonstrated ability to lead the college to achieve excellence in teaching, research, and outreach, in support of the tripartite mission for a land-grant university: learning, discovery, and engagement.
- Record of accomplishment in recruitment and retention of outstanding faculty, including women and those traditionally underrepresented in faculty, staff, and student bodies.

TO APPLY

Nominations and applications are welcome. Applications are encouraged by July 24, 2019; however, all applications will be considered until the position is filled.

Nominations and inquiries should be sent to:

Philip Jaeger, Partner

Sherlene Parsons, Associate

Isaacson, Miller

1300 19th St, NW, Suite 700

Washington, DC 20036

<https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S6-978>

Electronic applications strongly encouraged.

Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland do not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants for admission or employment on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or political affiliation.

APPENDIX:

COLLEGE BACKGROUND

Before the 1970s the states of Virginia and Maryland sent students to other states for veterinary training through partnerships with institutions like the University of Georgia, The Ohio State University, and Cornell University. In 1971, the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association conducted a need and feasibility study for a college of veterinary medicine and determined that the state could benefit from a veterinary college. A commission of veterinarians and Virginia General Assembly members recommended that it be a regional college that could also serve farmers in Virginia. In 1978, the state assembly officially established the college as part of Virginia Tech.

At the same time in Maryland, the State Board of Regents was discussing the prospect of starting a veterinary school. In May 1979 they elected instead to join the Virginia Tech initiative. In February 1980, the states signed a memorandum of understanding allotting 24 seats to Maryland students and 40 to Virginia students. The inaugural class of 64 students started in September 1980. The new college was fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1990.

Structure and Governance

The college is organized into five departments: at Virginia Tech, the Department of Biomedical Sciences & Pathobiology (DBSP), the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences (DSACS), the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (DLACS), and the Department of Population Health Sciences (DPHS). Faculty members at the Maryland campus are in the Department of Veterinary Medicine, which is housed within the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR) at the University of Maryland. Each department is led by a department head with oversight over faculty and departmental operations.

Resources and broad areas like the DVM curriculum and research are managed by a team of associate and assistant deans. These include: the associate dean for professional programs, the associate dean for research and graduate studies, the associate dean for Maryland (who is also Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine), the assistant dean for administration, and the assistant dean for advancement. The department heads, associate deans, assistant deans, and the directors of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Equine Medical Center, and DVM program report to the dean.

The chief administrative and decision-making body of the college is the College Executive Board. It is composed of all college administrators, including the dean, associate deans, assistant deans, hospital directors, department heads, and representatives of the college faculty and staff associations. It deals with matters pertaining to personnel, budgets, and confidential legal and administrative issues. The Executive Board provides the strategic planning and overall direction for the goals and objectives of the college.

Academic Programs

The college offers a variety of professional degree options. Students can pursue a DVM degree, an MS or PhD in biomedical and veterinary sciences, or joint DVM/MS or DVM/PhD degrees. Students may also pursue a master of public health (MPH) degree or combined DVM/MPH degree. In addition to these degrees, students may participate in residency and internships in their desired fields of interest. The VMCVM's degree programs are fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education (AVMA-COE), the Council on Education for Public Health, and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). The VMCVM was awarded Full Accreditation by AAALAC International on October 24, 2008. In the fall of 2019, the college will welcome the first students into its new undergraduate program in public health, the mission of which is to protect, improve, and promote population health in Southwest and Southside Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Central Appalachia, the nation, and the world by training future public health leaders through learning, discovery, and engagement in public health.

The college offers a four-year full-time program leading to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. The program includes three years of classroom and laboratory-based teaching and one year of hands-on, experiential learning in veterinary workplace-based settings. The College of Veterinary Medicine has recently undertaken a major curriculum review and renewal process resulting in a completely revised DVM curriculum beginning in fall of 2016. The new curriculum focuses on: a) implementation of large courses in the first two years of the curriculum that fully integrate the basic and clinical sciences, b) entry to veterinary clinics after year 2 of the program, allowing contextualization of integrated knowledge and hands-on/minds-on practice of diagnostic reasoning skills, c) re-entry to the classroom for courses that focus on advanced topics and technical skill development in areas of student interest (tracks), and d) a second period in veterinary teaching hospitals and clinics to reinforce application of knowledge in real-world settings. At the end of their second year, students choose one of five specialty tracks at the end of their first year: small animal, equine, food animal, mixed species, or public/corporate. The VMCVM is the only school that offers a public/corporate veterinary medicine track in recognition of the growing importance of veterinarians in government agencies and the corporate world. The pass rate for CVM graduates taking the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) was 98% in 2017-18, above the national average of 95%.

The college is also engaged in collaborations with other institutions. The Virginia Tech - Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences (SBES) provides opportunities for unique research collaborations between Wake Forest University and Virginia Tech. It brings together the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, the Wake Forest School of Medicine, and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. The School offers MS and PhD degrees in biomedical engineering as well as a joint DVM-PhD degree in collaboration with the College of Veterinary Medicine. Additionally, CVM faculty and students have the opportunity to participate in established exchange programs with institutions in Chile, Ecuador, and India.

Research

Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland are the leading research universities in their respective states. Each institution conducts roughly half a billion dollars in research annually. This marks a rapid and steady uptick in research funding over the past decade.

The VMCMV plays a strategic role in expanding the research enterprise on these campuses, with more than \$10M in funded research. Veterinary Medicine faculty members are tackling major issues through a broad spectrum of basic/molecular and translational/applied research that is strongly focused on animal health and productivity and human health and well-being, with signature research programs in infectious disease, immune and inflammatory responses, and regenerative medicine.

The research program includes both basic science to understand the molecular and biological basis for disease, as well as applied science to improve the lives of pets and people. With a focus on One Health, the research program brings together veterinarians, physicians, and other scientists to address public health threats affecting both people and animals. The college's translational research approach aims to take laboratory findings directly to clients in a clinical setting. Ongoing clinical trials in VMCMV hospitals test research discoveries to develop better methods of disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. The faculty, students, staff, and research partners are committed to discovery, service, and training future researchers and veterinarians.

The clinical research program involves both primary research focused on advancing the treatment and diagnosis of diseases through animal clinical trials and comparative research in which spontaneous diseases in animals can be used as models of human disease. Clinical researchers aim to discover new and better methods of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment that will improve the quality of life for current and future patients.

The population health research program involves community-based participatory research that addresses environmental health, infectious disease and chronic disease, with a focus on health equity. Current federally funded projects emphasize rural health but span the region and state.

Clinical Operations

The college operates two main clinical facilities: the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH), located on the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, offers primary and specialized medical care to large and small animals in the Blacksburg area and to those referred by practitioners in the region. The VTH and large animal field services treat a combined 79,000 animals annually. The majority of fourth-year DVM students, residents and interns receive their hands-on education at the VTH.

The Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center (EMC) was founded in 1984 through a gift from the late Mrs. Marion duPont Scott, the donation of 200 acres of land at Morven Park from the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, and contributions from the private sector for equipment purchases. Located in Leesburg, the heart of Virginia horse country, it has become a premier full-service equine hospital that offers advanced specialty care, 24-hour emergency treatment, and diagnostic services for all ages and breeds of horses. The EMC sees more than 2,400 patients annually.

Faculty and Staff

The college boasts an exceptional faculty from diverse backgrounds who are committed to VMCVM's mission. The college employs about 150 full time faculty (tenured, tenure-track, non-tenure-track instructional, clinical, and research faculty) and 20 administrative/professional faculty, along with over 200 staff members.

Students

A record-breaking 1,865 prospective students submitted applications to the VMCVM for the 2018-19 admissions cycle, the 2nd highest number of applicants to a U.S. veterinary college (for the 4th year in a row). The applicants have been drawn to the college's innovative curriculum, exceptional faculty, and excellent facilities. For several years in a row, the college has seen gains in application numbers for its Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program. These applicants were vying for 126 seats in the Class of 2023. Of the 126 accepted students, 40 are male, 28 are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, and 29 are from socioeconomically diverse backgrounds - representing the most diverse and competitive applicant pool for the DVM program in its history. In the class of 2022, there are 121 Bachelor and 10 Master degrees. Biological and animal sciences represent the most common undergraduate degree. The average GPA was 3.51. The class is 29% male and 71% female and 20% non-white minorities. Students in the Class of 2018 achieved a 98% pass rate on the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) and are expected to again exceed the national average in 2018, thus maintaining for at least 10 consecutive years this exemplary standard of performance.

The MPH program admits approximately 40 students per year. Students pursuing the MPH are a mix of full-time students pursuing the MPH degree only, veterinary and medical students pursuing a simultaneous MPH degree, and mid-career health professionals who enroll either full time or part time. Average undergraduate GPA is 3.4. The program recruits a diverse student population with over 15% of students from Appalachia, over 20% of students identifying as first general college students, and over 15% of students from non-white racial/ethnic groups. Approximately 55% of MPH students pursue the infectious disease concentration, with the remaining 45% in the public health education concentration. Pass rate on the national Certified Health Education Specialist exam was 100% for the past two years.

Diversity

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is committed to advancing diversity and to fostering an inclusive environment to promote learning and growth for all members of their community. The college has demonstrated this pledge in a variety of ways. It has expanded its diversity curriculum, served as host for the S.E. Veterinary Medical Colleges annual meeting on diversity, and participates in the DiVersity Matters initiative of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to passionately engage in the recruitment, enrollment, matriculation, and development of a diverse student body. The local chapter of VOICE (Veterinary Students as One in Culture and Ethnicity) has a strong presence in the DVM program and across campus. Services for Students with Disabilities assists students with disabilities and personal and environmental issues that may interfere with full access to academics and/or hinder academic performance. The college has also created a more welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBTQ students by participating in the university's SafeZone program.

The college is seeing success from its efforts, but there is still more work to be done. The college recently announced the most diverse and competitive applicant pool for the DVM program in its history. Members of the Community and Diversity Committee are appointed by the Dean to two-year terms and members elect a chair who serves a two-year term. The committee is charged to: periodically assess the climate of the college and make recommendations to the Executive Board to promote recruitment and retention of students, staff, and faculty from underrepresented populations; conduct an annual review of the College Diversity Plan and submit a report to the Executive Board detailing outcomes and recommending revisions to the plan.

Finances

The college operates with an annual budget of over \$42 million. Its main sources of funding include state appropriations, tuition, client revenue (from the VTH and EMC), endowment earnings, and sponsored research expenditures.

The college's finances are somewhat independent of Virginia Tech and the University of Maryland, in that a joint VMCVM Program and Budget Board establishes the annual budget in concert with senior management at both universities. This provides the dean significant autonomy in budgeting and financial decisions.

State Associations, Alumni, and Development

More than 3,000 VMCVM alumni are practicing in communities, government agencies, and laboratories throughout the United States. Many of these alums are involved in the Alumni Society, which holds regular events. The college also remains highly connected to its graduates and other practitioners through its continuing education offerings.

The college enjoys strong relationships with the state veterinary associations in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. These organizations provide an important bridge between VMCVM and the professional community. The college has been a strong supporter of these associations and helped facilitate their regional efforts. The groups interact regularly and have formal yearly meetings at the Potomac Regional Veterinary Conference.

Philanthropy plays an essential role in the growth and development of the VMCVM. An assistant dean for advancement leads the college's fundraising efforts with support from several staff members out of the Office of Advancement. VMCVM receives the majority of its financial contributions from clients pleased with the care they received from the hospital, and has plans to engage more alumni in giving. Annual giving to the college has averaged about \$3 million over the past three years, with nearly \$5 million raised through its advancement work in 2019.

UNIVERSITY BACKGROUND

Virginia Tech

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. Founded as a land-grant institution in 1872, Virginia Tech is Virginia's most comprehensive university and its leading research institution as well as one of the nation's senior military colleges. With more than 1,500 instructional faculty, Virginia Tech offers more than 280 undergraduate and graduate degree programs to nearly 35,000 students and manages a research portfolio of over \$530 million. Its operating budget for 2018-19 is \$1.6 billion and its endowment is approximately \$1.14 billion.

The university offers more than 110 bachelor's degree programs through its seven undergraduate academic colleges: Agriculture and Life Sciences, Architecture and Urban Studies, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Natural Resources and Environment, Pamplin College of Business, and Science. It offers over 170 master's and doctoral degree programs through the graduate school and professional degrees from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine and the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke.

Location and Campus

Virginia Tech's 2,600-acre main campus is located in Blacksburg. The town has approximately 45,000 residents and is one of three central communities that make up the New River Valley, one of the fastest-growing areas in the state. Situated on a plateau between the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains, Blacksburg offers a high quality of life and low cost of living with nearby outdoor attractions such as the New River and the Appalachian Trail. Nearby metropolitan areas include Roanoke (45 minutes to the north), Charlotte, NC (less than three hours to the south), and Washington, DC (four hours to the northeast).

Virginia Tech's campus reaches well beyond Blacksburg through the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and from campuses and research facilities throughout Virginia. These include: The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute in Roanoke; the Marion DuPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg; several locations in Northern Virginia including the recently-opened Virginia Tech Research Center-Arlington and the Northern Virginia Center in Falls Church; regional centers in Richmond, Roanoke, and Abingdon; and the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville. Virginia Tech's international facilities include the Steger Center in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland and the Caribbean Center for Education and Research in the Dominican Republic.

For more information about Virginia Tech, please visit www.vt.edu.

The University of Maryland at College Park

Founded in 1856, the University of Maryland is the flagship of the University System of Maryland, which includes 12 institutions and two regional education centers. The university's role is to educate future leaders to be engaged and thoughtful citizens in a complex, vibrant, democratic society. It has been a member of the Association of American Universities since 1969, and joined the Big Ten Conference in 2014 and the CIC in July 2013.

Maryland enrolls more than 29,000 undergraduates and more than 11,000 graduate students, hailing from 50 U.S. states and 118 countries. It is home to 12 colleges and schools: Colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Arts and Humanities, Behavioral and Social Sciences, Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences, Education, and Information Studies, Schools of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, Public Health, Public Policy, the Robert H. Smith School of Business, A. James Clark School of Engineering, The Graduate School, and the Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

More than 20 percent of the campus has been constructed in the last ten years, with plans for continued growth and expansion. Along with this physical growth, the university has seen a dramatic rise in academic stature and impact. The university is home to three Nobel laureates, seven Pulitzer Prize recipients, and more than 40 members of the national academies.

Location and Campus

The campus is located in the city of College Park, Maryland, a few miles from Washington, DC. The nation's capital provides Maryland faculty and students with ready access to people and organizations of great influence and extensive resources. The university is also fortunate to be in close proximity to Baltimore, the state capital of Annapolis, the Chesapeake Bay, the I-270 biotechnology corridor, numerous major corporations, and an unmatched array of governmental research entities.

For more information about The University of Maryland, please visit www.umd.edu.