

# Virginia Tech Native & Indigenous Resource Guide

## Indigenous Community Center

- Indigenous Peoples Day
- Heritage Month
- Community Lunch Circles
- Powwow
- Native Graduation Celebration
- **Contact: Melissa Faircloth**
- Community building
- Native student scholarships
- Student org. advising
- 1:1 student support/advocac
- **www.ccc.vt.edu/aiicc**
- **missy86@vt.edu**

## American Indian Studies Minor

- 12 hours of required courses
- 6 additional hours of electives
- Interdisciplinary
- **https://tinyurl.com/VTAINS**
- **Contact: Sam Cook**
- **sacook2@vt.edu**
- Pursue careers in education, social work, law, medicine, and a growing number of STEM fields. Better understand colonialism, climate change, economic development, food security, community health, and federal Indian law and policy.

## Tribal Outreach Initiatives

- Student internship placement
- Project assessment
- Applied research
- **Contact: Sam Cook**
- **sacook2@vt.edu**
- Grant workshops and review
- Tribal IRB policy development
- **Contact: Melissa Faircloth**
- **missy86@vt.edu**

## USDA Community, Agency, and Engagement Program

- Peer mentoring
- Academic support
- Experiential learning opportunities
- **Contact: Donna Westfall-Rudd (mooredm@vt.edu)**
- **Contact: Melissa Faircloth (missy86@vt.edu)**
- Elder in residence program
- College access program



# Campus Organizations

## Native at Virginia Tech

Native at VT student organization is dedicated to advancing the visibility of Native and Indigenous Peoples on campus while raising an awareness of issues that confront these diverse populations. To connect with this group, email ([native@vt.edu](mailto:native@vt.edu)) or the organization's advisor, Dr. Melissa Faircloth ([missy86@vt.edu](mailto:missy86@vt.edu)).

## American Indian and Indigenous Alliance

The American Indian & Indigenous Alliance serves as our Indigenous faculty staff caucus. The Alliance is committed to advancing initiatives which holistically support the growth, development, and retention of our Indigenous faculty, staff, and students. Alliance members also participate in tribal outreach initiatives. To connect with this group, contact co-chairs Dr. Eddie Polanco ([polanco@vt.edu](mailto:polanco@vt.edu)) or Dr. Barbara Lockee ([lockeebb@vt.edu](mailto:lockeebb@vt.edu)).

## Hokie Chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (Hokie AISES)

The Hokie Chapter of the American Indian Science & Engineering Society (Hokie AISES) is focused on increasing the representation of Indigenous peoples in STEM studies and careers. Members can participate through general body meetings and events, and through conference attendance. To learn more or to join this organization, reach out to one of the co-advisors: Mikaela David-John ([mdavidjohn@vt.edu](mailto:mdavidjohn@vt.edu)) or Dr. Brendan David-John ([bmdj@vt.edu](mailto:bmdj@vt.edu)).

## Indigenous Community Garden

The Indigenous Community Garden provides an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and other community members to learn how to care for our plant relatives and live in a good relationship with the natural world which sustains us. This initiative simultaneously promotes food security and awareness of Indigenous traditional ecological knowledge.

Contact: Vicky Ferguson  
([victoriaperfer76@vt.edu](mailto:victoriaperfer76@vt.edu))

## Solitude-Fraction

Solitude-Fraction Site provides intersectional, placed-based learning concerning the complexities around Native, Black, and Appalachian histories. Programs draw on collaborations with many partners including but not limited to the American Indian and Indigenous Community Center, the Black Cultural Center, and communities beyond Virginia Tech.

Contact: Vicky Ferguson  
([victoriaperfer76@vt.edu](mailto:victoriaperfer76@vt.edu))

## Land Acknowledgement

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that legislation and practices like the Morrill Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands, both locally and in western states and territories.

We understand that honoring Native Peoples without explicit material commitments falls short of our institutional responsibilities. Through sustained, transparent, and meaningful engagement with the Tutelo/Monacan Peoples, and other Native Nations, we commit to changing the trajectory of Virginia Tech's history by increasing Indigenous students, staff, and faculty recruitment and retention, diversifying course offerings, supporting Native American student organizations and events; and recognizing the growing needs of all Virginia tribes and supporting their sovereignty.