



A local union of the Virginia Education Association



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Local Organizing/Day-Of Contact: Randal Adams, 718-637-4245, ranaldAdams@gmail.com

UCW Contact: Gary Broderick, Organizing Director, 804-347-4942, gary@ucw-cwa.org

VEA Contact: Kevin Rogers, VEA Communications, 804-873-8316, krogers@veanea.org

MEDIA ADVISORY

Two New Unions Form at Virginia Tech, Will Hold Campus Rally on Tuesday

After three years of organizing on Virginia Tech's campus, graduate student workers, faculty, and staff are announcing the formation of two democratically-run organizations dedicated to an even better Virginia Tech: the Virginia Tech Graduate Labor Union, an affiliate of the Virginia Education Association; and United Campus Workers – Virginia Tech, affiliated with the UCW and Communication Workers of America. The two unions will make their debut at a rally on Tuesday.

"By joining our union, we can work together to make VT a better work environment and develop true equity throughout the university for everyone involved. It's the best way to ensure our voices work in unison to produce the changes employees need at Virginia Tech," says UCW-VT member Darryl Campbell, a Contracts Specialist in the Office of Sponsored Programs.

VT GLU and UCW-VT proudly join the American labor movement, and believe that every employee on the VT campus deserves an advocate, a living wage, a safe workplace, academic freedom, and respect. Already, our members have helped make significant changes at Virginia Tech, including a \$15/hour minimum wage for all campus workers and significant raises for over 700 graduate workers this fall.

Prescott Vayda, VT GLU member and PhD candidate in Geosciences said "A lot of people have been working on this for a long time. Going public is such a huge milestone. We've seen the change we can inspire with only a couple hundred students working together. Imagine what we will accomplish with a couple thousand. I really can't wait to have everyone on board."

When: Tuesday, September 5, 2023, from 1-4 p.m.

Where: Graduate Life Center Lawn, 155 Otey St., Blacksburg. Campus march at 2:30 pm.

Speakers at the Rally, along with members of both new unions, will include: Dr. James J. Fedderman (President, VEA), Chuck Simpson (President, Western Virginia AFL-CIO), Lily Franklin (VA House of Delegates candidate), Katie Seidemann (President, Montgomery County Education Association), Kristy Vance (Member, Kroger Union and 2000 Virginia Tech graduate)

Press: Media members are invited.