# VIRGINIA TECH™

## TECH Together Campaign
Sponsored by COVID-19 Rapid Response Seed Fund
a joint effort from: ISCE, ICTAS, FLSI, ICAT, and OVPRI

## INTRODUCTION

Creativity is born out of challenge and disruption spurs innovation.
Virginia Tech is seeking imaginative ideas and outside-the-box solutions as it navigates the current pandemic. The university needs the creativity and inventiveness of its students to make meaningful change.

While the university is putting systems and procedures in place for a safe reopening this fall, we are looking for students and faculty mentors who will assist with this transition, creating innovative and integrated solutions for the challenges the university's campuses face.

This is a campus-wide competition open to every Virginia Tech student. Student creativity and innovation will be an integral part of our efforts to move into the fall semester.

## THE CHALLENGE

The pandemic is affecting - and will continue to affect - all of us in various ways.  We want to safely move forward as a university community under these current conditions, but we need YOUR talent and YOUR passion to help us advance.

We are looking for creative and innovative ideas in five key areas:

*Area #1 – Stop It: Minimizing Spread Across Campuses and Surrounding Communities*
Students will propose novel solutions to minimize COVID spread among the university population and surrounding communities.

*Area #2 – Protect Us:  Ut Prosim and Protecting Our Communities*
Students will design programs that extend the spirit of Ut Prosim, guarding and protecting the most vulnerable members of our on and off campus community from the virus.

*Area #3 – Track It: Supporting and Facilitating Extensive Contact Tracing*
Students will develop ideas, methods, and techniques to help make contact identification more efficient, allowing contact tracers to do their jobs more quickly and effectively.

*Area #4 – Find It:  Understanding the Extent of COVID-19 at Virginia Tech*
Students will generate novel surveillance ideas to help Virginia Tech more successfully detect the presence of the virus and/or COVID cases, both on and off campus.

*Area #5 – Stop It:  Optimizing Virginia Tech Facilities*
Students will design social, technical, and/or programmatic solutions for operating facilities where students gather on campus to help limit COVID-19 spread.

## THE COMPETITION

The competition will be held in three phases:

### PHASE I:  FIRST CONCEPTS

- Students (either individually or in groups) will complete the application materials outlined in this document.
- Applications will be due by July 20th.
- 20 winning proposals will be announced on July 22, 2020.
- Winning proposal individuals or teams will meet with university leaders and receive $500 on July 22, 2020, to help prepare for the phase II competition.  Teams can be expanded and modified as needed.

### PHASE II:  FIRST PROTOTYPES

- Winning projects from phase I will download the application form for phase II and develop second prototypes.
- Applications will be due by August 3, 2020.
- Ten winning proposals will be announced on August 5, 2020.
- Winning proposal individuals or teams will meet with university leaders and receive $1,000 on August 5, 2020, to help prepare for the final phase III competition.

### PHASE III:  GRAND PRIZE AND FIRST DEPLOYABLE IMPLEMENTATION

- Winning projects from phase II will download the application form for phase III and develop final prototypes. Students will be asked to meet with university stakeholders and discuss their ideas.
- Applications will be due by August 17, 2020.
- Five winning proposals, one in each area, will be announced on August 19, 2020.
- Winning proposal individuals or teams will meet with university leaders and receive $4,000 on August 19, 2020, to deploy projects.

## ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Current Virginia Tech students are invited to submit an application and lead project teams. Project leaders and team members must be enrolled at Virginia Tech and in good standing as a graduate or undergraduate student.

In keeping with Virginia Tech's Principles of Community (http://inclusive.vt.edu), we recognize the critical importance of diverse teams of scholars and are dedicated to InclusiveVT — serving in the spirit of community, diversity, and excellence to create a community that nurtures learning and growth for all of its members.

## FACULTY ADVISOR

One faculty advisor is required per team, however teams may opt to have more than one team advisor. Please submit the Name, Department, and VT PID of the Team Advisor(s). Funding will flow through the faculty advisor's home department.

# APPLICATION GUIDELINES: Important Dates & Sections Required

|  | Phase I | Phase II | Phase III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Due Date | July 20 | August 3 | August 17 |
| Notification Date | July 22 | August 5 | August 19 |
| Total Page Limit | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Budget Page Limit | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Number of Winning Teams | 20 | 10 | 5 |
| Font | Times New Roman, 12 pt, single space | | |
| Prize Money | $500 | $1,000 | $4,000 |

## Application Sections

|  | Phase I | Phase II | Phase III |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Title | X | X | X |
| Complete Team Information | X | X | X |
| Statement of Need/Project Description | X | X | X |
| Goals & Objectives | X | X | X |
| Budget Justification | X | X | X |
| Methods & Strategies | -- | X | X |
| Plan for Evaluating Success | -- | -- | X |
| Threats to Success | -- | -- | X |

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## APPLICATION GUIDELINES

### COMPLETE TEAM INFORMATION
- Project leader, team members, and faculty advisor's names, emails, home department(s)  (all Phases)
- Brief description of project role for each team member (Phase I only)

### STATEMENT OF NEED/ PROJECT DESCRIPTION
- Statement of challenge area addressed and innovation (Phase I only)
- Application number assigned in Phase I (Phase II and III)
- Statement of changes from Phase II in the design of, or resources needed for, your project in order to accomplish your team goals (Phase III only)

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
- Describe the overall outcome your project aims to achieve and any project outcomes that will be created (all Phases)

### BUDGET JUSTIFICATION
- Describe how the $500 award will be used to move your project into Phase II (Phase I only)
- Please provide a brief justification of how your award will be spent to move into Phase III (Phase II only)
- For Phase III only:
    - Total budget request - not to exceed $4,000
    - Please provide a brief but itemized budget and justification for how the money will be spent to implement your idea. If additional funds would be needed to more effectively implement your solution, please provide an explanation for how that money would be used.
- Budget justifications can be provided using a separate document (all Phases; 1 page limit for Phase II, 3 page limit for Phase III).

### METHODS AND STRATEGIES
- Describe the activities that will be conducted and any anticipated resource needs for your project success (Phase II only)
- Describe any changes from Phase II that have been identified to the activities conducted or anticipated resource needs as part of your project (Phase III only)
- Describe in detail how you will implement the plan (Phase III only)

### PLAN FOR EVALUATING PROJECT SUCCESS
- Describe how you will determine if your project has been successful and anticipated outcomes and deliverables (Phase II and III only)

### THREATS TO SUCCESS
- Describe potential threats to the successful implementation of your project and the ways in which these threats could be minimized (Phase III only)

## FUNDING INFORMATION

- Funds will be awarded to the project leader's or faculty advisor's home department. All project expenses must be posted to Banner within 30 days of the project's end date.
- Unspent funds must be transferred back to Fralin Life Sciences Institute (FLSI) within 45 days of the project's end date.
- Funds will not be awarded for conference travel, food, outside artist fees, or honorariums.
- Funds may be used for equipment, software, and/or materials.

### EXPECTATIONS OF FUNDED PROJECTS

**Funds:** FLSI will transfer funds to project leader's or faculty advisor's home department E&G fund upon acceptance of the project. Any unspent funds should be returned to FLSI by October 1, 2020. Please have your departmental fiscal representative contact Kiyah Duffey at kduffey7@vt.edu

**Equipment:** FLSI will have first option on the disposition of ownership of all materials, supplies, and equipment. Equipment not owned or maintained by FLSI will be returned to the project PI with the understanding that FLSI will have access to said equipment, pending request and availability.

**Reporting:** Project updates should be submitted to FLSI during the project's duration. A final two- to three-page report that describes project outcomes and how the funds were expended will be submitted to FLSI no more than 30 days after project completion. A final report template will be provided for completion and will be submitted to Kiyah Duffey at kduffey7@vt.edu

**Resources:** It is expected that the investigators have all resources (space, equipment, etc.) necessary to complete their project, with the exception of the items and personnel requested in the proposal.

**University policy:** All university policies and procedures must be observed.

**Logo:** The official Virginia Tech logo can be provided upon request.

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**Title of Proposal:** _____

**Names of student team member(s)** (please type/print to confirm participation):

_____
Name  (Contact PI)              Department              Email                    Date

_____
Name                            Department              Email                    Date

_____
Name                            Department              Email                    Date

_____
Name                            Department              Email                    Date

**Faculty Advisor Acknowledgment and Approval:**
By typing/printing my name, I confirm that I support the student team member(s) application.

_____
Name                            Department              Email                    Date

Please submit all completed application materials, including this cover sheet, **with the subject line: [PI Last Name]-TECH Together-Complete Application - [Phase#]**, to Kiyah Duffey at kduffey7@vt.edu