“Entrepreneurship is the pursuit of opportunity without regard to resources currently controlled.”
– Howard Stevenson

We are building an entrepreneurial community. A place you join as an individual, but where you become something greater. A place where we are redefining success measured by personal fulfillment, not just the bottom line. Community is our catalyst. We define community as being students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and fellow entrepreneurs.

At The Nexus reaffirms the entrepreneurial commitment of Virginia Tech students, faculty, alumni and entrepreneurs in attendance. It underscores the role of entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation in the contemporary business environment and its role in society. Our community of entrepreneurs and innovators can network, exchange ideas, and learn what it takes to conceive, launch and grow an entrepreneurial venture. Conversations and connections made here fuel the entrepreneurial mindset.
AGENDA

Thursday, November 12

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Check-in to The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center
Location: The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center Foyer

5:30 p.m. Bus departs for Launch Party
Location: Cinebowl at First & Main shopping center

6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Georgia Tech vs. Virginia Tech football viewing and Conference Launch Party
Location: Cinebowl at First & Main shopping center
Welcome – Derick Maggard (Executive Director, Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship)

Friday, November 13

Location unless otherwise noted: Latham Ballroom, The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Breakfast, check-in & Networking

9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Welcome – Beth Tranter (Associate Vice President, Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation)
Introduced by: Jordan White (Virginia Tech Student)

10:00 – 10:20 a.m. Conference Kickoff – Virginia Tech President Timothy D. Sands
Introduced by: Allie Howe (Virginia Tech Student)

10:30 – 11:15 a.m. Panel – How Product Design Can Determine Your Success
Moderated by: Hunter Orrell (Virginia Tech Student)
• Steve Grant (Chief Strategy Officer, Gibraltar Ventures)
• Jenne Salamoun (User Experience Architect, New City Media)
• Dan Meyers (Innovation & Strategy Consultant, Connect more Dots)
• Alex Barrette (COO, VOID design Haus)
• Kevin Jones (CEO, VOID design Haus)

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Workshop

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch Keynote – Alan Macy (Research Development Director, BIOPAC Systems, Inc.)
Introduced by: Deba Saha (Virginia Tech Student)

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Panel – Building a Company from Breakthrough Research
Moderated by: Madeline Anderson (Virginia Tech Student)
• Michael Christiano (Head of Strategic Transactions, Novartis)
• Josep Bassaganya-Riera (Entrepreneur, Professor, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute)
• Harald Sontheimer (Entrepreneur & Executive Director, School of Neuroscience)
• Richard Claus (CEO, Nanosonic)

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Workshop

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Break
3:00 – 3:45 p.m.  
**Panel – Data-Driven Decisions and Disruption**
Moderated by: Nizar Taifour (Virginia Tech Student)
- Steven Schneider (Chief Product Officer, LogiAnalytics)
- Jonathon Perrelli (Founder & CEO, LifeFuels)
- Anthony Beverina (Founder of Digital Sandbox)

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.  
**Workshop**

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.  
Transition to Lane Stadium, South End Zone

5:00 – 5:30 p.m.  
**IGNITE Pitch Session, Alumni and Entrepreneurs**
$3k of cash will be given on the spot. IGNITE will give students the opportunity to pitch themselves, their ideas, or their products in a rapid 60-second pitch session.

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
**Networking Reception – Lane Stadium, South End Zone**

7:00 p.m.  
Dinner on your own

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**Saturday, November 14**

Location: Latham Ballroom, The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
**Breakfast, check-in & Networking**

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.  
**Morning Keynote: Kunal Mehta** (Founder of Mehta Apartments and Outpatient)
Introduced by: Keith Heyde (Virginia Tech Graduate Student)

10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**Panel – New Frontiers: Emerging Trends in Early-Stage Investing**
Moderated by: Brett Langstaff (Virginia Tech Student)
- Doug Dooley (Partner, Venrock)
- Jim O’Connell (EIR, Safeguard Scientifics)
- Jen O’Daniel (Investment Director, CIT GAP Funds)
- Ric Fleisher (Angel Investor and Co-founder, Urgent.ly)

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.  
**Panel – Build a Brand People Love**
Moderated by: Jordan Harvich (Virginia Tech Student)
- Steve Hole (Founder, Playoff Labs)
- Sarah Elliot (Assistant VP, Marketing & Creative Services, VT)
- Aaron Herrington (Co-Founder, Modea)
- Zach Williams (CEO, Venveo)

12:15 p.m.  
**Closing Remarks**
Beth Tranter (Associate Vice President, Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation)
Ben Knapp (Director, Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology)
Derick Maggard (Executive Director, Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship)
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