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## In This Issue:

- CECE moves to new home at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center
- Blair Durham receives Virginia Tech Influential Black Alumni Award
- Elli Travis promoted to senior economic development specialist
- Meet a Graduate Assistant: Bryan Jones
- News roundup
- We're hiring! Help us spread the word

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## CECE moves to new home at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center

The Center for Economic and Community Engagement moved into their new office on 1900 Kraft Drive at the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, a little more than a year after their move from their previous office at 702 University Blvd.



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## Blair Durham receives Virginia Tech Influential Black Alumni Award

Alumna Blair Durham, the president and co-founder of Black BRAND, a Hampton Roads nonprofit that works to increase Black wealth in the region by promoting professional development and community empowerment, was among nine Hokies honored this month with Virginia Tech Influential Black Alumni Awards. Durham, who holds a degree from the College of Science, sits on the Center for Economic and Community Engagement advisory board.

She is the recipient of the Social Justice Award, which recognizes an alum who seeks to increase fairness and equity for those systematically disenfranchised and least served politically, economically, or socially.

In 2021 and 2022, Durham worked with Mallory Tuttle, associate director of the Newport News Center, and Afroze Mohammed, associate director of strategic alliances for CECE, as well as computational modeling and data analytics students, to develop a data dashboard that shows “the state of the Black community in the Hampton Roads region” and enables Black BRAND to better understand the factors that affect the economic and social progress of Black residents in the area.

Read more about the Black BRAND collaboration: <https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/06/outreach-black-brand.html>



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## **Elli Travis promoted to senior economic development specialist**

The Center for Economic and Community Engagement has promoted Elli Travis to senior economic development specialist. Travis has worked for the center – formerly the Office of Economic Development – for seven years, joining in 2015 as an economic development specialist.

“I’ve gotten to work in the field with Elli everywhere from Southwest Virginia to Bangladesh,” said Executive Director John Provo. “I’ve been pleased to see her growth as a researcher and as a partner in helping communities prosper.”

Read more about Elli: <https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2023/03/07/cece-promotes-elli-travis-to-senior-economic-development-specialist/>



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## Meet a Graduate Assistant: Bryan Jones

Bryan Jones is a first-year student in the urban and regional planning accelerated program and joined CECE as a graduate assistant in January 2023. He started his undergrad at Northern Michigan University, where he worked with faculty in their Freshman research program. He is originally from Fort Washington, Maryland, and has strong ties to the DC Metro Region. He is most interested in international development and green infrastructure. His favorite part of working at the center is the ability to engage with local stakeholders and put the concepts he has learned into practice. When he is not in the office, he learns new recipes or plans his next vacation.



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## News roundup

### **The Aerospace Corporation launches students into exciting careers in space (VT CECE Blog)**

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2023/02/27/the-aerospace-corporation-launches-students-into-exciting-careers-in-space/>

### **Center for Economic and Community Engagement helps Mount Rogers region boost outdoor tourism (VT News)**

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2023/02/outreach-cece-mount-rogers.html>

### **Corporate Research Center-led coalition wins GO Virginia grant to advance green hydrogen in Hampton Roads (VT News)**

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2023/04/outreach-newport-news-hydrogen.html>

### **Fulbright scholar Joanie Willett studies the secrets of main street success (VT News)**

<https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2023/04/outreach-cece-willett-fulbright.html>

### **Hanover County Economic Development gathers over 40 community stakeholders and industry experts in series of focus groups (VT CECE Blog)**

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2023/03/21/hanover-county-economic-development-gathers-over-40-community-stakeholders-and-industry-experts-in-series-of-focus-groups/>

**Meeting of CECE Advisory Board and Virginia Tech Council on Vibrant Virginia emphasizes Virginia Tech's impact across the commonwealth (VT CECE Blog)**

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2023/04/05/meeting-of-cece-advisory-board-and-virginia-tech-council-on-vibrant-virginia-emphasizes-virginia-techs-impact-across-the-commonwealth/>

**Region 2 Internship Collaborative holds events to help students build connections with local companies (VT CECE Blog)**

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2023/04/18/region-2-internship-collaborative-holds-events-to-help-students-build-connections-with-local-companies/>

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## **We're hiring! Help us spread the word.**

The Center for Economic and Community Engagement (CECE) is hiring an economic development specialist and project coordinator based in the Blacksburg area. Learn more and apply below.

### **Economic Development Specialist**

The specialist will develop and conduct applied research and technical assistance projects and participate in the collaborative design and implementation of projects with a special focus in the Blacksburg/Roanoke area.

Apply here: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/525333/economic-development-specialist>

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### **Project Coordinator**

The project coordinator will provide coordination, administrative, and logistical support for project development and implementation. They will support individual CECE faculty under the supervision of the associate director and collaboratively with the finance coordinator. They will also support the unit-wide business meeting, Vibrant Virginia program, and administrative impact evaluation activities.

Apply here: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/968/cw/en-us/job/525334/project-coordinator>

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