



OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
 VIRGINIA TECH™



### *From the Mountains to the Sea*

Accomack-Northampton County and Lee County were the sites of two OED projects. On opposite sides of the state, Accomack-Northampton and Lee are both rural areas that are relatively isolated and rich in nature-based tourism and outdoor recreation. The regions both have untapped potential that OED sought to explore when conducting their studies and developing recommendations for the areas.

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### *Hello New Neighbors! How Vet School Can Act as A Catalyst For Growth In Lee County*

On the westernmost tip of Virginia, is Lee County. The DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center (DVTC), a Lincoln Memorial University program, is located in Ewing, VA, in Lee County, just two miles south of the Kentucky state-line and two miles north of Tennessee.

The Veterinary Teaching Center provides students around the country the opportunity to practice veterinary medicine on cows, horses, and small animals. Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development conducted a project where they explored how the Veterinary Teaching Center could function as an anchor institution for Lee County.



Picture of DeBusk Veterinary Teaching Center (DVTC) from <https://www.lmunet.edu/>

**Read more about the project here.**

<https://blogs.tlos.vt.edu/cece/2020/08/28/hello-new-neighbors-how-vet-school-can-act-as-a-catalyst-for-growth-in-lee-county/>

### *Food is Life...but is it a Living? Helping Build the Eastern Shore's Land-Based Economy*

The Eastern Shore of Virginia. Composed of two counties, Accomack and Northampton, it is home to the famous Chincoteague Pony and 439 bird species. Attractions such as the vehicle-free community on Tangier Island, Assateague Island National Seashore, and Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge are popular places to explore, bird, kayak, hunt, or fish.

The region, with its rich history, cultural traditions, and a unique sense of place, was the subject of a Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development feasibility study conducted for the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (ANPDC). The feasibility study determined the potential of a regional Food Hub

to increase business opportunities for agriculture, aquaculture, and artisan enterprises.



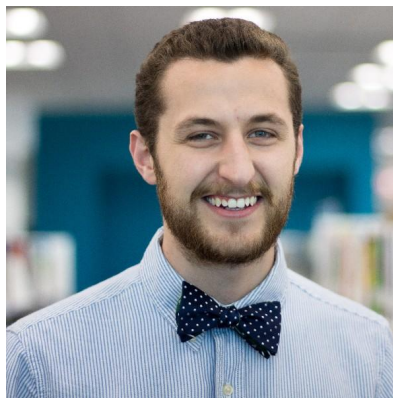
Photo by [Dylan Sauerwein](#) on [Unsplash](#)

**Read more about the project here.**

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## OED Welcomes a New Team Member



Trey Gordner is a master's student in urban and regional planning at Virginia Tech's Arlington campus. Before joining OED as a graduate assistant, Trey spent 5 years running his own business, a marketing technology company for public libraries ([koios.co](http://koios.co)). He graduated with honors in 2013 from the University of South Carolina (B.S.B.A., International Business) and is a Scrum-certified software product manager (CSPO). Trey's interests include tinkering in Python,

language learning, local politics, and sailing. He also serves on the boards of FairVote Virginia and USC's McNair Institute and leads a small group with his wife at The District Church. After graduation, he wants to found or join another startup to develop software for smart cities.

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## Upcoming Events

**September 2-3:** [SWVA Economic Forum](#)

Contact [Shannon Blevins](#) for more information.

**September 21-24:** [University Economic Development Association Summit](#)

Contact [John Provo](#) for more information.

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