



## Senate Brief - November, 03, 2022 Meeting

This document should be distributed to all graduate students within your department or through your departmental listserv so that everyone may engage with the activities of the Senate.

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### Housing Survey

The GPSS Director of Advocacy, Alice Fox, is looking for participants to fill out a housing survey to ascertain the actual housing needs of the graduate community here at Virginia Tech. Participants will be entered into a prize draw to win a gift card once the survey is complete.

If you haven't already done so, you can fill out the housing survey [here](#).

### Cookie Decorating with the Dean

Join us to decorate cookies with Graduate School Dean Surprenant. This event is on Wednesday Dec 14th from 4:00pm - 5:00pm in the Graduate Life Center, Room B. Please RSVP to the event on Gobbler Connect.

### Graduate Research Development Plan

Applications are open for the GPSS GRDP Spring '23 cycle. This program can award up to \$850 as "monetary support for degree-contingent research conducted by Virginia Tech graduate students". Please submit applications before the deadline on Jan 19th, 2023. If you have any questions or would like to amend an already submitted application, please contact Director of Programs, Cissy Ming at: [cissym@vt.edu](mailto:cissym@vt.edu).

If you are interested in applying, please click [here](#).



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## Community Outreach

### Faculty Mentor of the Month

Each month the Graduate School recognizes and highlights “the important role faculty members play in supporting, encouraging, and promoting an affirmative, inclusive scholarly and teaching environment, while contributing to the professional and personal development of graduate students, and cultivating excellence in scholarship”. In service to this, graduate students can nominate a faculty member they believe should receive this award. Participating in programs such as this help highlight faculty that are supportive to graduate students and rewards faculty who believe in mentorship and fair treatment.

To nominate a faculty member, visit [here](#).

### Kids' Tech University

Kids' Tech University invites you to be a part of the STEM fun!

We are excited that Kids' Tech University, a program for kids ages 9-12 and their parents, is being offered Virtually and In-Person in the spring 2023. On Saturdays, Jan. 28th, Feb. 18th, March 18th and April 1st, 2023, 250 kids and their parents will come to Virginia Tech, Blacksburg Campus to participate in STEM Interactive Session and hands-on activities. Hands-on activities will take place from 1:30-3:30 (with 30 minutes for set-up (1-1:30) and take-down (3:30-4:00) on either side

If you, your club, your lab or your department are interested in hosting a hands-on activity for the kids/parents to explore/do [please fill out this survey](#).

### 209 Market Place Food Pantry

*The Wesley Foundation at 209. W. Roanoke St.*

If you, or any of your colleagues, are experiencing food insecurity then please check out 209 Market Place which is a “donation-based, emergency food pantry that provides food, toiletries, and school supplies [for] free to Virginia Tech students in need”. Students can sign up for the food pantry and are allotted a number of points for the week that you can spend as you see fit. Find out more about 209 Market Place [here](#).