Letter From Interim Department Head

Dear Alumni and Friends,

On behalf of the students, staff, and faculty in the Grado Department of ISE, I would like to thank each of our donors for your generosity. We simply could not provide the opportunities for students that we do without your financial support. We have many ambitious goals and your help will be even more critical in the future.

Please come by the ISE main office for a visit whenever you are next in Blacksburg!

With warm Hokie regards,

[Signature]

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Giving to ISE at Virginia Tech

The Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering at Virginia Tech is one of the world’s leading ISE departments. Although we do receive funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the funds provided are simply not sufficient to support the goals and activities of a top engineering department. Thus, we depend on the generosity of our friends and alumni to support our education, research, and outreach mission.

Giving to ISE at Virginia Tech helps us in many ways:

- Providing student scholarships & fellowships
- Supporting student professional development and leadership opportunities
- Enabling us to offer courses in emerging areas
- Supporting faculty and staff professional development
- Helping us develop and maintain state-of-the-art research facilities
- Recruiting and retaining excellent students and faculty.

In short, your giving helps us to remain competitive, to further build excellence, and is vital to our success.

Giving to the Excellence Fund

In order to provide flexible funds to support a variety of needs, the ISE Department established a permanent endowment fund in 2007 called the Excellence Fund (EF). Gifts to the EF are not spent in the current year but are invested through the VT Foundation. The ISE Department spends only the associated earnings from this investment each year—thus, the EF provides a means to invest in the future. With the EF, we seek to create a culture of giving. This fund has steadily grown and now generates about $25,000 each year that we can use for activities not possible through state funding. The EF remains our greatest priority for giving.

In recent years, EF earnings have been used to support students. For example, this past year, the EF made possible the following:

- Travel and registration costs for 55 ISE students to attend regional, national, and international conferences
- Sending all 177 new sophomores on chartered buses to one of four plant/facility tours as part of the Intro to ISE course
- Support for the ISE Ambassador Program (30 members - shown above), Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (165 members), and Alpha Pi Mu (70 members) - see holiday party below for student leaders.

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