From Rivals to Partners

Virginia Tech and University of Virginia

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Virginia Tech: An Overview

- Located in Blacksburg, Virginia
- Nine colleges and graduate school
- 31,000 full-time students
- Main campus includes 135 buildings, 2,600 acres, and an airport
- Ranked 38th in university research in the United States
- Has adjacent corporate research center
- Office of Sustainability has 3 full time staff, one part-time grad student, and 17 student interns
University of Virginia : An Overview

Located in Charlottesville, Virginia
11 academic schools
~15,000 undergraduate students
~6,000 graduate students

Grounds with 525 buildings on 1,600 acres, UNESCO World Heritage Site

Ranked 33rd in best value university in the United States

Health System with 750,000 outpatient visits annually

Office for Sustainability has 11 full time staff (including energy engineers), and 14 student interns
The Rivalry
The Partnership

- Summer 2014: UVa Office for Sustainability reaches out to VT Office of Energy and Sustainability to visit campus.

- Fall 2014 UVa Sustainability Visits VT campus for tours, idea sharing, and socializing opportunities

- Summer 2015: VT Sustainability visits UVa Grounds for tours, idea sharing, and socializing opportunities

- Both trips highlight opportunities to replicate efforts and find answers to common roadblocks in creating sustainable campuses in Virginia

- Part of larger VASHE regional network
Open Discussion

Who is your best Rival/Partner Institution?

What are some barriers/challenges to collaborating with other schools?
Alignment in our program structures created great opportunity for students to learn from each other.

Planned to get everyone together one fall weekend, meeting halfway at a state park for a hike, lunch, and discussion.

Challenges:
- Busy time of year
- Students have other weekend plans/commitments
- Work or play?

Maybe try connecting with a sports event next year.
Spring 2016 Idea: Tying in Competition

Seemed to be an interest in this tying collaborations directly into their internship work - evolved beyond just a social gathering.

Challenges:
How can we fit this in between RecycleMania, World Water Week, Earth Week, etc?
How will we make sure everyone hears about the competition without getting overloaded / confused?
Meetup in Lexington, Virginia + RiVAIry Cup Competition

1) Foster a sense of community, plan the competition, and build a trophy for the winner

2) Fit competition within the existing events/initiatives that student teams already execute

3) Use the competition as an internal motivator for the student teams at each school
Head-to-Head Challenges Each Month

- Recycling Teams go Head-to-Head
  - February is Recyclemania
  - Food Waste Audit

- Water/Energy Teams go Head-to-Head
  - March is World Water Week
  - Stream Clean Up

- Communications Teams go Head-to-Head
  - April is Earth Week
  - Social Media Photo Contest

- Outreach Teams go Head-to-Head
  - May is Move Out
  - Donation Collection
The Office of Energy and Sustainability is hosting a
Stream Clean Up
Saturday March 26th
10am-2pm
at Stroubles Creek
Free Donuts will be provided!
Part of the RiVALry Cup!
Open Discussion

How do you currently collaborate with Rival/Partner institutions?

What ideas do you have for moving forward to collaborate with Rival/Partner institutions?

Remaining questions/challenges?
Thank you!

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