



Radford
UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

THREADS

May 19, 2025

Message from Provost Usher

Congratulations! We graduated over 1300 students last week (~1000 undergraduates and over 300 graduate students). I love that we are community that comes together to celebrate our students and the end of the academic year, and that so many of our faculty and staff volunteer to help out as marshalls, readers, bagpipers, program distributors, picture-takers, and general support. And then many of you then came back to campus to finish projects, attend CITL's Our Turn, and get ready for summer. I appreciate all you are doing, and hope that summer, in whatever form it takes for you, gives you the best balance of relaxation and productivity.

In recent weeks, we have gotten a couple of accolades I wanted to pass along. The Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education released Radford's new [Institutional Classifications](#). It now has two classifications, Institutional and Student Access. Based on size, program mix, and award level focus, Radford is Professions-focused Undergraduate/Graduate-Master's Large/Medium. In the Student Access and Earnings Classification, Radford is listed an Opportunity College and University, with higher access and higher earnings. This is the most coveted rank (at least in my mind), and only three public universities in Virginia earned it.

And, thanks to overwhelming support from the community, Radford University is the [2025 Top Adventure College](#), as designated by Blue Ridge Outdoors! We know that every day is an adventure (we hope that's a good thing), but now the world will know it.

Beyond the adventurous kayaking, hiking, biking, and hanging out at Selu (look for open events during the summer), Academic Affairs will be searching for three positions over the summer: Assistant Provost for Graduate Studies, Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences, and Assistant Vice President for Radford Online. Thank you to everyone who has already agreed to serve on these search committees - I'm finalizing the list and will include it in the next Threads. The finalists will have public presentations with Zoom options for each of these positions, and we will include these in Threads over the summer.

Late in the semester, we unfortunately had the "Shelter in Place" experience because of an off-campus incident. As a campus, we handled this very well. President's Cabinet works with Radford University Police on "table-top" exercises where we practice our emergency procedures, and that experience paid off. But, we realized that the messaging was confusing to many, so Chief Plummer has offered to host several faculty training meetings in August before the semester begins. Please see the information below and add them to your calendar.

With appreciation,

Bethany

Public Safety Information Sessions

Public Safety Information Sessions for faculty ahead of the fall semester:

- August 11 at 11:00 a.m.
- August 12 at 11:00 a.m.
- August 20 at 1:00 p.m.

Locations for these sessions will be coming soon.



At the Winesett Awards for Library Research Ceremony on Friday, April 18th, six students were presented with \$750 Winesett Awards: Forest Berry and Trinity Roberts (Lower Level); Matthew Gary and Stefani Rodriguez (Upper Division); and Kati Batten and Michelle Lynn King (Graduate Level). Eight finalists all received \$100 prizes: Nina Aidam, Nicholas Beach, Sharon Carroll, Courtney Cline, Madison Drees, Natalie May, Madison Rader and Tiannah Shifflet. Congratulations to our winners and finalists, and all students who applied! Special appreciation to Dr. Keith Gentry from Occupational Therapy, this year's Library Champion, and to the judging panel: Alyssa Archer (Co-Chair, Libraries), Erica Looney (Libraries), Dr. Michael Marberry (School of Writing, Language, and Literature), Dr. Sung Eun Park (Department of Art, and Barbara Tait (Co-chair, Libraries). To see photos from the events at McConnell and RUC Libraries and to read the award-winning projects and reflective essays, go to the [Archives of the Winesett Awards 2024-25](#).



Radford University is in the process of procuring Anthology Ally, an integration with Desire to Learn (D2L), that will enhance our commitment to accessible and inclusive education. It will have tools to help faculty members identify accessibility issues and it will offer a variety of ways in which students can interact with materials; however, faculty will still need to know how to make materials accessible. **Ally will only be available for use within D2L's Classic content experience.** To prepare for the coming integration, follow the instructions provided in the link below to ensure you have the **Classic Content Experience** enabled in D2L.

[Classic Content Experience](#)

Virginia Plan for Higher Education - Input Sessions



Share your ideas for the next statewide strategic plan for higher education. **The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)** will be hosting input sessions for stakeholders to share their thoughts on the next statewide strategic plan for higher education.

Input sessions will last approximately 2.5 hours with up to two sessions at each venue below. Click on the registration links to find out more details. In order to participate in the input session, you must register in advance.

Please consider registering for one of the below input sessions and share this information with anyone you think may be interested in engaging in this process.

June 3 | University of Mary Washington

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#) (Register by May 20)

June 10 | New River Community College

1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#) (Register by June 3)

June 11 | Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center

June 11: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

[Register Here](#) (Register by May 27)

June 13 | Virtual

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

[Register Here](#) (Register by June 10 | 150 Participant Max)

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