

You are here: [Home](#) > **VT Staff Employee of the Week**

Virginia Tech Staff Employee of the Week

August 1, 2006

Name: Laboratory Employee Professional Development Network Leadership Team
 Patricia Boyle, Dairy Science
 Linda Correll, Virginia Bioinformatics Institute
 Judith (Jody) Jervis, Biochemistry
 Delbert Jones, Veterinary Medicine
 Suzanne Piovano, Horticulture
 Kathy Reynolds, Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise
 Terri Tishman, University Leadership Development



Nominated For: Governor's Award for Teamwork 2005

Nominated By: Linda Woodard, Assistant VP for Human Resources

Summary

In 2001, the Laboratory Employee Professional Development Network (LEPDN) was created at Virginia Tech. The network aims to serve all employees working in laboratory research, field research, and instructional lab units by helping to identify and promote opportunities for professional development through enhanced coordination and communication. A leadership team comprised of representatives from major campus laboratories, Personnel Services (now Human Resources), and Leadership Development created the idea for the network and has continue to plan and coordinate a series of programs each year.

- Sponsoring programs of general interest to laboratory technical personnel with guest speakers
- Providing opportunities for specialized training such as statistical analysis software, certification, and licensure in specialized areas
- identifying opportunities to share resources, expert knowledge and skills from different parts of campus
- Identifying the role of laboratory technical personnel in the university's drive to rank among the nation's top research institutions
- Providing mentors for new laboratory technical personnel.

Although the program is supported by the university's Leadership Development and Human Resources offices, the ideas for programs, identification of speakers, development of staff communications and outreach are handled by the leadership team.

Examples of their achievements include:

- An annual all-day program with a variety of workshops on scientific and other topics. It includes presentations and displays by vendors of scientific and research equipment and supplies, and is funded by vendor registration fees. The program involves more than one hundred staff, and has also had participation from faculty, researchers, and graduate students.
- A listserv with interested lab employees, used to share expertise, solicit opportunities for one-on-one training, and share equipment.
- Tours of campus research facilities and presentations on various initiatives

- In-depth workshops on topics such as statistics, and “lunch and learn” workshops on specific scientific methods, such as “Important Factors in QPCR Optimization.” These are offered at no cost by Virginia Tech faculty and vendors
- Annual questionnaire to solicit workshop topics for the next year.

About the ["Staff Employee of the Week"](#) Program

...

© 2005 Virginia Tech Human Resources

[Contact Us](#) · [Map & Driving Directions](#) · [Privacy Statement](#) · [Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Info](#) · [Applicants with Disabilities](#) · [Mission Statement](#)

Page: <http://www.hr.vt.edu/eow/> Last Updated: 8/2/2006 9:13:39 AM