

Staff Employee of the Week

Melissa D. Simpkins

JOB TITLE: Financial Specialist

HOME DEPARTMENT: Deans Office, Science

COLLEGE OR VP AREA: College of Science

NOMINATED FOR: President's Award for Excellence, Governor's Star Award, and Staff Leadership Award

NOMINATED BY: Janet Sanders, Director of Finance and Business Affairs, COS

VIRGINIA TECH HIRE DATE: November 15, 1999

SUMMARY

Melissa was hired in the Dean's Office of the College of Science (COS) in the fall of 2003 as one of the college's inaugural staff. Although she serves in the role of Financial Specialist, her duties go far beyond those of the fiscal nature; they also include HR, operations and facilities management. Her excellent communication skills and ability to work well with other people are critical in her role. One co-worker states "Melissa is always looking for ways to make our office a better place. She truly exemplifies what it means to lead by example ... She makes things happen. She takes care of us. Her tasks are not always pleasant, but she always handles herself in the utmost professional manner." One department head writes "...she has helped create a positive can-do, service-oriented atmosphere in the college offices; her enthusiasm in working with co-workers has been highly infectious."

Melissa recently completed her BS degree in the Bluefield College Organizational Management program. During Melissa's tenure here, she has served on the COS staff association; has been a member of the Office Manager's Development Group; and was the only classified member on the Dean's Search and co-chaired the HR Restructuring Committee. She is currently a staff senator and serves on the VT-Engage team.

Melissa is truly an awe-inspiring individual who is highly regarded among staff, faculty, and the administration; she exemplifies Virginia Tech's motto, Ut Prosim.