



VIRGINIA  
TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING  
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# TECHNOLOGIZE

Spring 2021 EDITION

## New Association Address

For all association business please use the is address:



VTEEA  
514 Shawnee Trail  
Winchester, VA 22602

You may contact us  
via email  
[vteea1958@gmail.com](mailto:vteea1958@gmail.com)



*Your association is seeking applicants for the VTEEA Executive Secretary/Treasurer position.*

The (paid) position requires a four year commitment (August 1, 2021 to August 31, 2025). The Executive Secretary/Treasurer maintains records of membership and manages the fiscal affairs of the Association under the direction of the President and the Board of Directors.

Interested applicants must email the Executive Committee at [vteea1958@gmail.com](mailto:vteea1958@gmail.com) by May 15th. In your email, provide your phone number and mailing address. Also, include a brief description of your financial management experience.

## What is Your Opinion?

*Thoughts of Ron Vickers, Editor*

I'll take a stand and state right here that we have CTE courses that should not allow students to enroll virtually.

It has been unfair to my students in Advanced Manufacturing Systems class to be able to enroll in a situation where only computer screens convey information for the mainly hands on structure of the course.

It has been a stressful year with the new reality of our classes being all virtual students or one of many hybrid configurations. The challenge of organizing safety instructions, skill building in using tools and machines through project work and interactions with kids face to face was just not possible for the ones enrolled in my class virtually. I wanted to create assignments that were similar in concept for both groups of kids. Very quickly I ran into being unable to meet the needs of kids on the computer screen. Lots of students fell into just logging into our "Google Meet" just to get counted present for class. We were instructed not to ask students to have their camera on during these meets due to potential problems with bandwidth so I'd see a dozen rectangles on my laptop screen with either initials or emojis. I felt like I didn't have the opportunity to even know who I was talking to.

I bought 5 older textbooks from eBay just to have something that could keep my head above water. I started assigning chapter reading and answering "Test Your Knowledge" questions at the end of the chapter for my virtual kids. This made in recording grades in the student management system more time consuming.

I counted my blessings of being able to teach some of the kids in person (with lots of COVID protocols) in the lab once a week.

I'm very interested in hearing other different views of this year's situation from others. Should this be something the association should get behind? I welcome your responses at [vickersr@fcpsk12.net](mailto:vickersr@fcpsk12.net) or by phone 540-860-2807

## Congratulations! You Made It!

*Comments from Dr. Basham, VDOE*

The majority of you have just spent the hardest year teaching since you first walked into a classroom; and despite the challenges of students being in a virtual setting, you have taught those who wished to learn to the best of your ability. Your resiliency during this school year has been amazing. Many of you have developed computer skills you did not possess. Some of you saw students online, some students pretended to be there. Some of you are still teaching virtually while you have live students in the room also. Some of you saw no students in your classes. The creativity of some of your school districts was good, and some created worse issues than were solved. Yet you persevered and managed to teach some students anyway.

I know that next year may contain virtual with live teaching, but let us hope that more students come to school and you can let them get their hands on things. Teach them to use the tools you have, be it software on computers, or hand tools and machines. Help them to understand the value of what you teach. Get to know them, and continue to encourage them to strive for the best.

Meanwhile, I hope that you get a break and some relaxation. We hope to see you at our virtual conference in July and provide things you can use in the classroom. Get some rest, quit looking at screens, and take a break before that time comes. Congratulations! You made it through a pandemic that is still going on. May next year bring you renewed energy and enthusiasm to help those students you will get to know. Thank you for all that you do!

# Our Association has a Permanent Archive of our History and Documentation!

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## Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association (VTEEA) Records, circa 1924-1998, undated | Special Collections and University Archives

**Title:** Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association (VTEEA) Records, circa 1924-1998, undated

**ID:** 00/MG 132

**Extent:** 6.0 Linear Feet

**More Extent Information**

12 Hollinger document cases, 1 oversize box

**Arrangement**

**Creators**

Virginia Technology Engineering Education Association  
Virginia Industrial Arts Association

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**Scope and Contents:** This collection contains organizational materials, correspondence, reports, publications, photographs, and slides pertaining to the history of the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association (VTEEA). The VTEEA consists of educators in the engineering, technology, innovation, and design fields who seek to promote their profession and provide a state-wide forum for their ideas. Included in the collection are membership directories, photographs and slides from workshops and meetings, as well as newsletters. The bulk of the records pertain to the

ODU Special collections can be searched at <https://www.lib.odu.edu/archon/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=363&q=VTEEA>. If you still have paper copies of conference programs or other interesting items that may qualify for including in this collection please contact either Ron Vickers ([vickersr@fcpsk12.net](mailto:vickersr@fcpsk12.net)) or Dr. Phil Reed for the next steps. Above is a screen shot of the digital files at ODU

## Still Seeking VTEEA Leaders!

Several statewide educators have stepped forward for leadership roles in the future of VTEEA, but there are opportunities for which we still need a candidate. There is a lot of infrastructure in place and many former leaders willing to help you be successful. The commitment is four meetings a year, usually coinciding with conferences or meetings you may already attend every year. Please contact Jim Egenrieder ([STEM@vt.edu](mailto:STEM@vt.edu)) or Frank Guyer ([frankguyer1992@gmail.com](mailto:frankguyer1992@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Virginia ACTE Government Affairs Update

A budget line item to **restore and improve VERSO** (Virginia Education Rource System Online) and the APG (Administrative Planning Guide) was approved with the rest of the state budget thanks to Virginia ACTE, VTEEA leaders, and the efforts of legislators in the CTE Caucus in the Virginia House of Delegates. The legislature also approved a Statewide **STEM Advisory Council** to support and enhance STEM education in the Commonwealth, and Virginia ACTE is working to ensure strong CTE representation, including three or more nominees from VTEEA.

With the passing of [House Bill 1776](#), **teachers with licenses expiring this year** will again be able to fill out a simple form to have their licenses extended two additional years, reflecting the challenges teachers faced during the pandemic.

Please contact Jim Egenrieder for more information: [STEM@vt.edu](mailto:STEM@vt.edu) or 571-482-8298.

## Focus on Us!

I think it would be nice to read about folks like ourselves. This space will highlight new teachers and veterans alike. Perhaps several individuals for each issue can become standard fare. *Sherando High School's Technology*



*Student Association, TSA, is one of 180 Virginia school associations participating in the virtual, regional and state competitions during the 2021 school year. TSA member, Cameron "Camey" Pinkley, has won 2nd place in Photographic Technology in both her region and state competition with the help from her teacher, Lyndsay Crump and TSA advisor, Ron Vickers. Camey's next stop is TSA's National Competition being held virtually in June 2021."*

My name is **Lyndsay** and this is my second year teaching graphics and photography at Sherando High School. I'm a proud graduate of James Madison University- Go Dukes! I enjoy all things outdoors- kayaking, river tubing, gardening, attending concerts, wineries, and breweries. I earned my Bachelor's in Fine Arts (BFA) with a concentration in photography. I pursued a teaching position in art, but I found an opening in Tech Ed. At first I was hesitant, but I love what I teach. I've also learned there are several parallels between art and technology education. I'm currently studying to take the Tech Ed praxis- so feel free to send any tips or tricks my way. I attended ITEEA

in Baltimore last year to meet other teachers in my field. It was an awesome time until it came to a screeching halt due to Covid-19. I'm excited to meet my fellow colleagues at VTEEA and ITEEA in the upcoming years!

## Cecilia Hess is ATC Teacher of the Year

Hello, I am **Cecilia Hess**, an Architectural Design/Engineering Design teacher at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Virginia Beach. I enjoy sharing my passion for design and construction with my students and I invite them to explore a variety of career options. I have found that leading students through com-



petitions and seeing them realize their success is the most rewarding part of teaching. I am an Advisor for SkillsUSA and the Technology Student Association (TSA), and several of my students are participating in the TSA National competitions this June. I also serve as an Educational Advisor to the Coastal Virginia Building Industry Association's "Young Designer's" competition, and I contribute to Virginia Department of Education Curriculum Review sessions. This has been a year unlike any other, but good things have come of it. I was selected as the ATC 2021 - 2022 teacher of the Year and some of my students have won competitions. I want to give a big shout out to all my new friends that joined the Virginia Drafting and CAD teachers Professional Learning Community led by Bobby Jett, where we were able to share ideas and teaching methods during the school shutdowns and re-openings.



My name is **Aaron Meyer** and I recently completed my second year as a technology and engineering teacher. I have accepted a position at Landstown High Schools Governor's STEM Academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Prior to this summer, I was a teacher in Newport News Virginia working at Dozier Middle School 2019-2020 and Heritage High School Governor's STEM Academy 2020-2021. I have taught Introduction to Technology, Inventions and Innovations, Technological Systems, PLTW Principles of Engineering, PLTW Engineering and Design, and Modeling and Simulation Technology.

As a new teacher one of my favorite roles has been working with students through Technology Student Association (TSA). It is a sad truth that many of our students, colleagues, and administration do not even know what



TSA is or its benefits to our programs as a CTSO. I have loved working with students from underrepresented and underserved populations to find their interest in STEM and STEM related events

and career paths. I believe that putting the energy in having a strong TSA program at your school is a worthwhile investment. I put a lot of energy into building up the TSA. At Dozier Middle School I helped create the first chapter of TSA in school history and had an inaugural chapter of 30 students with 17 females and 28 students of color. We competed at the regional fair and were working towards Technosphere before COVID stopped all activities. For many of those students it was the first time they ever competed in or participated in a STEM event or pursued interests that they could not cover in class. Even through a pandemic growing TSA is a huge asset to your TEE program. This past year at Heritage I was able to promote TSA and grow the chapter from 2 active members to 12. Technosphere, and Nationals. This is the first time in over a decade that Heritage High School has competed at Technosphere or Nationals.

Although it might seem like another added responsibility to our already over packed workload I truly believe that promoting your TSA chapter will hands down benefit your program, your students, and your school. There are so many resources and support to help build or even start your TSA chapter in your school like the VTEEA Pre-Conference Session TSA From Top to Bottom by BJ Scott on Tuesday July 20th. I promise you that it is a worthwhile investment.

## **Technosphere '21 Makes History**

Reported by Ron Vickers, and BJ Scott, TSA State Advisor

It has only been about a month ago that our focus at school was all about getting kids entered in the state contests. Below was published over 3 months ago:

### **VIRGINIA TSA TECHNOSPHERE WILL BE VIRTUAL**

Posted on March 15th, 2021 by BJ Scott



Here is a GRAND SHOUT OUT to **Jerry Ridgeway, Jennifer Tolley, Monica Geiger and their leader BJ Scott** for pulling off what many would say was impossible. The team managed to run all 79 events that Virginia TSA offers in our virtual Technosphere. This was one of the most total events run by any state this year at their state conferences. **Nearly 850 students across the state participated in the virtual event.** I agreed to judge a middle school contest so I personally got a glimpse of the whole enterprise. Monica was in charge of scheduling all of the meeting rooms for semifinalists and coordinating outside judges on what to do. She was totally component and I enjoyed working with her. BJ said, **"Monica ran the zoom interview rooms for all of the events that had interviews. She always had at least five interview rooms going on at a time during the four sessions ran for interviews. She had as many as eight in one session."**

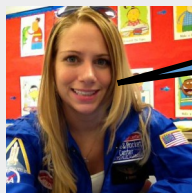
From my experience judging contest years ago, the new digital system is much easier and more accurate. Jennifer Tolley was in charge of all the judges that were used across the nine day event. Tolley also set up all of the interviews times that Monica did through zoom. BJ ran the Judge Pro system for the entire conference. He plans on using this judging system for years to come. Our state officers were impressive and it is a well known fact that Jerry has a lot to do with that. We elected our new state officer team using an app to vote. Jerry did numerous things throughout the weekend. He was an integral part of getting us through and of course he announced at the closing ceremony. Looking back, I kick myself for not focusing soon enough and hard enough to get everyone of my student involved in a TSA contest this year. It was the most inexpensive Technosphere we have ever had to the locality. I did not have transportation, motel, or food costs to plan for with the kids.

# Goochland County Hosts our very first Virtual Summer Conference.

- You do not have to do the conference live the day it is scheduled
- You can ask for extra PD points for watching more sessions. All will be recorded.
- A swag box will be sent to each person who early bird registers for conference, including a bound copy of Standards for Technological and Engineering Literacy
- You will be able to actually see exhibitors on zoom during lunch
- You don't have a conflict choosing one session over another because all will be recorded.
- This is professional development at its most flexible!
- The price for the amount of professional development available per hour is outstanding.
- There are 50 great sessions for middle, high and elementary schools, and something for everyone.



## It is not too late to Sign up for Summer Conference!



I really want to help new teachers and especially those that are career changers.

Rachael Domer from Fairfax County is doing a 6 hour workshop the day before the conference for new teachers and those who feel it would help them such as people who took the PRAXIS. July 20th - Full Day - Technology & Engineering teacher boot camp Learn everything you need to know about being new to the Technology and Engineering content; what it is, pathways, and fabrication lab safety. - [Click Here For More Information](#)

I wonder if some folks watching my session will be in a recliner still not dressed to be in public???

BJ Scott is doing a 5 hour workshop solely focused on TSA and how you do it. This also takes place on July 20, the day before the official conference.



Our GOLD sponsor!

## Sad News...

Some of you may have worked with **Jason E. Perry** over the years. It is with a sad heart that I share he passed. Jason served in many VTEEA roles including president in 2002-2003. Jason was a creative, smart, and friendly professional. Final arrangements have not been announced. He will be missed.

## From U.K., President Guyer Sends His Thoughts

Hello VTEEA family it is always wonderful to be talking to you all. I hope everything is going the best that it possibly could be going. Now that the sun is shining, I hope you all are taking some time to relax and enjoy the vitamin D. It is important that we as teachers find ways to relax and enjoy the small things in life. One of my new hobbies that I have found really relaxing is horticulture.

The feeling I get from making



something when I am in the fabrication lab is great. I'm sure that is the reason why quite a few of us are technology and engineering teachers. We love to make things and see the growth. I personally gain this same sense of satisfaction when I see what I can grow and harvest. When we first went into lockdown last March, I decided to start my career as a horticulturist. Before then I don't think I really



had ever owned a plant of my own before and if I did, I think I killed it so fast that it isn't even a memory. I was approached by a resident because my apartment building had a plot garden and they were asking around if anybody wanted to join.

It seemed daunting and foreign to me, but I decided to take this opportunity to try something new since we were all working from home. One year later I am building garden beds, composting everything we can, starting my seedlings early with a grow setup, and producing enough vegetables to the point where I don't even get any at the grocery store anymore.

It was a learning curve from when I first started, but I experimented to see what works and doesn't. I went to Home Depot bought a variety of seeds and threw them in the ground and hoped for the best. I watered every other day because it was in direct sunlight. I was able to get quite a few things to produce, but I started talking to the other gardeners and I began reading the internet for tips and tricks for when things start to go wrong. I found out about different plant nutrients that were needed monthly. Some of these nutrients are found in blood meal, compost, and plant food. Planting marigolds and wildflowers near your crops is a natural deterrent of pests/insects and attracted bees for pollination. Rotating the dirt and tilling the soil before planting allowed roots to grow faster and easier through the dirt. There is even a science of how to balance the PH levels of the dirt to grow the healthiest organic crops. Some of these composting items that balance the soil are leaves, grass clippings, brush trimmings, Any non-animal food scraps: fruits, vegetables, peelings, bread, cereal, egg shells, coffee grounds and filters, tea leaves and tea bags, old wine, dry cat or dog food, dust from sweeping and vacuuming, shredded paper, cardboard, and newspaper, dryer lint, old herbs, and spices. There are some items like bananas, orange peels, meat, bones, dairy, and fish that will ruin your compost and potential kill your plants so avoid adding these items. If you do not care about growing it organically your typical bag of fertilizer will do the same thing. My only advice is don't add fertilizer when your plants are young due to the chemicals affecting roots of baby plants.

Over time you will be able to figure out what you like to grow. you grow things in large pots or above ground beds you will have less difficulty with insects and soil nutrient deficiency. I jumped in and didn't plan out the distance of seeds or do any of the things I



If



talked about. It all still grew, but not to its fullest potential. The seeds need to be a certain distance apart, so the plants don't get overcrowded and battle for water and nutrients. I also ran into an issue of making way too many plants and ended up giving away 50% of what I grew because I couldn't eat all the food before it would go bad. Things like cucumbers and peppers can be pickled for later use. Going into my second growing season I thought more about the nutrients and what I wanted to eat. I choose to focus on growing ingredients for salsas and hot sauces.

Knowing that I wanted to focus on these items I began to collect the seeds from the things I would buy at the store or had already grown. I then placed them on a paper towel and let them dry out for later use. I stored them in an airtight Ziploc bag after dehydrating them. I planted them all this season and they have all sprouted well and I have high hopes for this season with all the new knowledge I have shared with you. I have also started an after-school club for the kids and began to build an outdoor learn center with them behind the school of assorted raised beds, greenhouses, and an outdoor learn-



ing space. It is very exciting to teach them these skills and many of them begin gardens of their own at home to the best of their abilities. We have teamed up with the culinary arts course to grow herbs for their recipes as well as we use their scrapes for our composting bins. Science classes are brought out there for various lessons and even the parents are involved with dropping off bags of compostable items in Ziploc bags and large Tupperware bins. So far it has been a great experience overall. I hope I have inspired some of you all and look forward to seeing anything done like this in your schools.

### Editor's Note:

While these words were not what I expected, but we are all pleased Frank is thriving in London. Association work is ongoing and with his engagement you would not know he lives 3000 miles away.