Opening remarks by

Dr. William T. Lewis, Sr.
Vice President, Office for Diversity and Inclusion

Administrators and students come and go but faculty are eternal; the curriculum and pedagogical approaches that are developed, owned, and implemented by faculty, have an eternal impact on the students whom they teach. That being said, the role of faculty in an institutional diversity change agenda is critical to transforming the institution, crucial to helping students understand their responsibility in a global economy, and central to sustaining long–term change. If faculty are at the heart of institutional change, then the question we must answer is, “How are faculty engaged in the long–term, campus–wide diversity and inclusion change agenda?”

Mission
The Office for Diversity and Inclusion will work to establish a collaborative approach to achieving inclusive excellence at Virginia Tech. We will provide leadership for building and sustaining a diverse and inclusive community where all individuals are appreciated and respected.

Diversity Development Institute
The Office for Diversity and Inclusion announces the Diversity Development Institute, an initiative designed to enhance university–wide diversity and inclusion efforts and contribute to the core mission of Virginia Tech. The Institute provides opportunities to cultivate competencies and engage faculty and staff in rich dialogue that fosters a more inclusive environment. The Institute supports educational sessions and interactive workshops that further the understanding of diversity and inclusion topics, including those of inclusive pedagogy.