**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FIRST BLOCKCHAIN SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD IN BLACKSBURG ON APRIL 20, 2018**

**Blacksburg, VA--** The Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium will be hosted on April 20, 2018 by the Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience (Forum) at Virginia Tech. The Symposium be the first event in the New River Valley bringing together national and local blockchain innovators, academic experts, and policy makers to discuss the political, economic, and social impacts of this disruptive technology.

Tech associate professor, and symposium director, David Bieri, said of the event “Blacksburg is home to a diverse group of tech innovators, a top-tier research institution with world-renowned experts in computer science, finance, and the political economy. The strong link between the university and business communities has created the perfect environment for the region to be at the forefront of the development, and research of many blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and related applications. What makes this symposium unique is that it moves attendees beyond the blockchain itself, to a better understanding of the economic, social and political implications that the technology brings.”

The symposium, which is open to the public, will provide a one-of-a-kind opportunities for attendees to engage with the leaders who are advancing the blockchain, and cryptocurrency, discussion globally on the impacts of the technology across many sectors and industries.

Blockchain is a digital, decentralized, distributed ledger of transactions, which is being used in many commercial, financial, and public sector applications. The key feature of the blockchain is its anonymous nature, which provides an open, verified and visible transaction documentation to those on the blockchain. Blockchain most notably is the platform on which Bitcoin, the most well-known cryptocurrency (digital currency) operates. Bitcoin allows for secure and direct peer-to-peer transactions without third-part verification. Bitcoin has taken center stage in economic and regulatory arenas over the last 16 months as its valuation, while volatile, peaked at over $19,000 in December 2017 more than a 2300% increase from a year previous.

About GFURR: The Forum’s mission to engage a broader public toward an understanding of cities, urbanization, and regional development. The Forum’s research initiatives focus on how the relationships among markets, institutions and the state are challenged by the scale and complexity of contemporary socio-economic processes.

The Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium will be April 20th, 2018 from 8am to 2:30pm at the Lyric Theatre in Blacksburg, VA. *The event is open to the public to learn more and register, please visit:* [*www.xxxxxx.com*](http://www.xxxxxx.com)*.*

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*To learn more about the Symposium:*

*Davon Woodard*

*Graduate Research Assistant*

*davon@vt.edu/312.206.0398*