**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 19, 2018

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

**Blacksburg, VA--** The Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium will be held on April 20, 2018 from 8am to 2:30pm at the Lyric Theatre in downtown Blacksburg, VA, hosted by the Global Forum on Urban and Regional Resilience (GFURR) at Virginia Tech. The Symposium is the first event 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, Dr. David Bieri, said of the event “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. Like no other innovation in a generation, blockchain technology has become synonymous with digital disruption with promises to revolutionize traditional understandings of money, authority, trust, and governance. Additionally, with the strong link between the university and business communities in Blacksburg the region is at the forefront of the development, and research of blockchains, cryptocurrencies, and related applications.”

Never before has a technological innovation so instantaneously and comprehensively challenged the age-old institutions which underpin systems of money and credit, property rights, and production. The symposium will provide a one-of-a-kind opportunity for attendees to engage with leaders who are advancing the global blockchain discussion and answering pressing questions including: What are the social impacts of this new tech-topia? What about its dystopian consequences? Does it provide us with more resilient alternatives?

**About Blockchain:** Blockchain is a digital, decentralized, distributed transaction ledger, which is being used in many commercial, financial, and public sector applications. The key feature of blockchain technology is its anonymous nature, which provides an open, verified and visible transaction documentation.

**About GFURR**: The mission of GFURR to engage a broader public toward an understanding of cities, urbanization, and regional development. GFURR’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. To learn more about GFURR, visit: [www.globalforum.vt.edu](http://www.globalforum.vt.edu).

*The event is free to the public, to register, please visit: www.bburg-blockchain.io.*

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*To learn more about the Symposium:*

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