



October 29, 2018

**STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FOR TRANS, NON-BINARY,  
AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE  
FROM THE LGBT FACULTY & STAFF CAUCUS, AND  
THE LGBTQ+ RESOURCE CENTER AT VIRGINIA TECH**

The LGBT Faculty and Staff Caucus at Virginia Tech, the LGBTQ+ Resource Center at Virginia Tech, and HokiePRIDE of Virginia Tech, stand together in unwavering support of the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming communities in response to an intentionally cruel, incendiary, and harmful opinion piece published by the Collegiate Times on 10/24/2018. Through clumsy, unsupported, and dismissive framing, the article positions trans experiences and identities as debatable, and calls into question their fundamental reality. Such acts of discrimination and transphobia are antithetical to the Virginia Tech Principles of Community, University Policy 1025, and the heart of our community. We note that other identities recognized within the Principles of Community are not subject to debate about their very existence, and we feel this article's publication warrants action and response by the greater university and community. In light of this article and the news that the Trump administration may attempt to further eliminate protections for the community, we reaffirm our commitment to trans, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming community members at all intersections of their identities, and we will continue to advocate for recognition and respect of all those who call Blacksburg and Virginia Tech home.

In solidarity,

Rachel Lin Weaver, M.F.A.  
Caucus Co-chair  
rlw@vt.edu

Jordan Harrison, Psy.D., LCP  
Caucus Co-chair  
harrisoj@vt.edu

Luis H. Garay, M.S.  
LGBTQ+ Resource Center  
lhgaray@vt.edu

Maria Elisa Christie, Ph.D.  
Secretary/Treasurer  
mechrist@vt.edu

Katie Mey, M.S.  
Events Coordinator  
katie2@exchange.vt.edu

John Gray Williams, M.A.  
CEOD Diversity Representative  
[jxwillia@vt.edu](mailto:jxwillia@vt.edu)

Rowan S. Wooldridge  
HokiePRIDE President  
rowanw@vt.edu

John Allen Livingston  
HokiePRIDE Vice President  
john923@vt.edu

Adri Ridings  
HokiePRIDE Campus Liaison  
[hridings@vt.edu](mailto:hridings@vt.edu)

RJ Lloyd  
HokiePRIDE Intern  
rjl@vt.edu