WHEREAS, the Commission on Outreach and International affairs (COIA) exists to study, formulate, and recommend to University Council policies and procedures concerning the engagement of the University in service, outreach, and international affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) has submitted a proposal to form a university-level Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED) reporting to the Office of the Vice President of Outreach and International Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Center will support Virginia Tech’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s knowledge and applying it to raising standards of living in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Center will include providing opportunities and building capacity for the university’s involvement in international research, education and development; identifying and promoting high-priority themes and issues and strategically focusing on country- and region-specific collaborations; generating and communicating information to a range of audiences about the University’s and the Center's international activities; and increasing and diversifying funding sources; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Center for International Research, Education and Development will increase the visibility of the University’s international engagement to more effectively attract and assist internal clients and stakeholders, as well as engage more effectively with external partners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the COIA recommend authorization of the establishment of a university-level Center for International Research, Education and Development.
Overview:

Transitioning the Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED) to the Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED) will increase its visibility and create a stronger campus presence that will allow the Center to more effectively attract and assist its various internal clients and stakeholders; this in turn will enhance engagement with external constituents.

The impetus for the transition to become a Center is an expanded vision of the opportunities available from drawing together multidisciplinary faculty teams to develop innovative responses to complex global problems. Propelled by the University’s renewed focus on increasing international collaboration, Beyond Boundaries, CIRED will be central to strategic approaches and practical models for international engagement that will position Virginia Tech as a pre-eminent global land-grant university leader.

Background:

Since its creation in 1993, the Office of International Research, Education, and Development has provided essential support and resources to the University faculty, administration and staff to acquire and implement international projects and activities. This is accomplished by drawing on and strengthening the expertise of faculty, staff and students in units, departments and colleges across Virginia Tech’s campus. The result has been an international research, education and development operation that has brought in more than $150 million since 1993 and has a current sponsored research and education portfolio of $60 million.

Vision:

The vision of the Center is to link Virginia Tech to the world, supporting the university’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s vast knowledge and applying it through multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional partnerships to raising standards of living in developing countries. Providing opportunities for faculty and student involvement in research, teaching and development of solutions to problems beyond our nation’s boundaries, results in benefits to the university and to the people and communities it serves throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Short- and Medium-Term Objectives:

- Support university efforts to become a premier global land-grant university
- Provide opportunities and build capacity for the university’s high-quality involvement in international research, education and development
- Identify and promote high-priority themes and issues that will establish and leverage the university’s expertise and excellence abroad
- Strategically focus on comparative advantages and niches that lead to country- and region-specific collaborations
- Provide technical, financial and human resource support and assistance to university global engagement through strategic partnerships
- Provide leadership for new and innovative approaches to global problems, challenges and opportunities
- Help create campus policies and structures that support responsive and robust international programs and projects
- Generate and communicate information to internal and external audiences about the University’s and the Center’s international activities, successes and the benefits of global engagement
- Increase and diversify funding sources with the goal of growing the Center’s program and project portfolio

Clientele:

The Center will operate at the university level, serving faculty, administrators, staff and students involved in international affairs. As part of a public university with the mission to serve the needs of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Center recognizes mutually beneficial relationships with a wide range of agencies and citizens, and will cultivate these relationships accordingly. Clientele also include an array of international partners, for example foreign universities and research institutions, international centers, governments, non-governmental organizations, and foundations and funding agencies such as U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). A current representation of the Center’s projects and programs includes:

- The USAID Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovation Lab (IPM I L), which develops and implements approaches to pest management that help raise the standard of living
and improve the environment in select developing countries. Approaches developed in this project have global application and benefit.

- The USAID Innovation for Agricultural Training and Education (InnovATE) Program, which works to achieve sustainable food security, reduce poverty, promote rural innovation and stimulate employment by building human and institutional capacity.

- The Women and Gender in International Development Program (WGD), which works towards gender equity in development by promoting gender sensitivity in every project through training and interdisciplinary research and ensuring that women and other disadvantaged groups benefit.

- The USAID Education and Research in Agriculture (ERA) in Senegal, which strengthens the country’s institutional and human capacity in agricultural education, training, research and outreach.

- The USAID Youth in Agriculture (YIA) project in Senegal, which aims to transform the agricultural sector through youth engagement, empowerment, education, and training.

- The USAID BHEARD Higher Education in Agriculture Initiative, which supports graduate education at Virginia Tech by four South Sudan students

Through its broad mission of research and education, the Center will collaborate with most of the university’s colleges and research institutes for expertise, including the

- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
- College of Architecture and Urban Studies
- College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences
- College of Natural Resources and Environment
- Graduate School
- Pamplin College of Business
- Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
- Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute
Governance:

CIRED will be a university-level center housed in Outreach and International Affairs (OIA) reporting to the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs. The Center Executive Director will plan and develop projects, programs and activities in consultation with the Vice President of OIA and the Associate Vice President for International Affairs, including providing the annual center report, and other reports as requested.

As part of its governance structure, the Center will form a stakeholder/advisory committee to support and provide guidance to the aims and objectives of the Center, including serving as a conduit of information for university and other stakeholders on the Center’s international work; generating new ideas and directions for the Center’s future international engagement; and identifying topics and target areas to further the Center’s work and its capacity to contribute to the university’s goal of becoming a leading global university. The stakeholder committee will be comprised of the Executive Vice President and Provost or his/her designee, who will serve as the Administrator of the Center; the university Chief Financial Officer; the Academic Deans of collaborating colleges; Directors of collaborating centers and institutes; Heads of Departments and other faculty who collaborate closely with the Center’s work. The Center will invite distinguished and promising Virginia Tech faculty as well as international scholars and practitioners to become affiliated with the Center.

Anticipated Resource Needs:

The Center will continue to be funded by a combination of base university funding, sponsored projects and returned overhead. The university funding includes support for the Executive Director; Director, Women and Gender in International Development; Director, International Finance and Administration; Associate Director, Finance and Administration; and Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director and partial funding of office space. Sponsored funding supports project and program specific positions within the Center and returned overhead funds the remaining resource needs of the Center. The current combination of university base funds, sponsored funding and returned overhead provides adequate support to the Center’s current activities.

Forecast of External Funding:

The center receives E&G funding each year to fund salaries and operations. For the current fiscal year, the E&G base funding totals $562k, and the projection is for a similar amount in the future. During the prior two fiscal years OIRED, generated $388k & $364k respectively in returned
overhead funds. We forecast comparable levels of generated returned overhead in the future. Ongoing project funds directly support salaries, fringes and operating expenses in OIRED and in several colleges.

**Anticipated Distribution of Returned Indirect Costs:**

The Center will continue OIRED’s policy of establishing departmental grant funds to support the activities of VT faculty collaborators. The college portion of returned overhead from these departmental funds will continue to be shared 50/50% with CIRED. This sharing of returned overhead generates funding for VT departments and CIRED.
Statement of Executive Director’s Qualifications:

Van Crowder has a PhD from Cornell University in Adult and Continuing Education. He started his international career with the University of Florida (UF) working on a project in Bolivia funded by USAID. He subsequently worked at UF as Assistant Director, International Programs in Agriculture, as well as Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Education and Communication. He has extensive experience with international development agencies and projects, including work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC/Department of State). At MCC, he served as Senior Director for the Education, Health, and Community Development portfolio. At FAO, he served as Agricultural Education Officer, Senior Officer Communication for Development, and as the Country Representative in Nicaragua. He has consulted with the World Bank and USAID, among other organizations, in numerous countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In addition to Executive Director OIRED, he holds a tenured professorship in Virginia Tech’s Department of Agricultural, Leadership and Community Education.
March 23, 2017

Dr. Guru Ghosh  
Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs  
Gateway Center 120  
902 Prices Fork Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Ghosh,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to transition the Office for International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) to a college-level Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED) to be located in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs.

For many years, OIRED has provided essential support and resources to the university faculty, administration, and staff to acquire and implement international projects and activities. This is accomplished by drawing on and strengthening the expertise of faculty, staff, and students in units, departments, and colleges across Virginia Tech’s campus. As a center, it will be even better positioned to draw on the university’s expertise to address complex global problems, and thus contribute more significantly to Virginia Tech’s role as a global land-grant university.

Numerous faculty in our college/unit are currently engaged in international activities, or have expressed interest in such engagement. The proposed creation of CIRED will assure increased accessibility to services and support for our faculty in development of international projects and pursuit of funding, which will strengthen and broaden the impact of international activities in our college. The new center will improve the visibility of our international endeavors across campus and enhance our engagement with external stakeholders.

I endorse the mission of CIRED to support the university’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s vast knowledge and applying this knowledge through multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional partnerships to raise standards of living in developing countries. I believe this is an exciting opportunity to establish Virginia Tech as a leader globally for Research, Education, and Development. CIRED will be central to strategic approaches and practical models for international engagement that will position Virginia Tech as a pre-eminent global land-grant leader.
The College of Natural Resources and Environment looks forward to continuing our relationship with CIRED and fully supports the creation of this center. We appreciate the opportunity to expand the university’s capacity in this area.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Paul M. Winistorfer
Dean
April 27, 2017

Dr. Guru Ghosh
Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs
Gateway Center 120
902 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Guru,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to transition the Office for International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) to a Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED), to be located in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs.

For many years, OIRED has played an important role in developing and managing international projects and activities. This has been accomplished by engaging the expertise of faculty, staff and students in units, departments and colleges across Virginia Tech’s campus, including the College of Veterinary Medicine. Moving forward, it is clear that OIRED will become increasingly important as Virginia Tech seeks to expand its global position.

For the College of Veterinary Medicine, global reach is a necessary perspective to enable success in achieving our aspirations in regard to One Health, which recognizes the inextricable linkages between animal health, public health and the environment across the world. Specifically, we need to establish and grow international partnerships that provide experiential opportunities for students to learn about global health and research opportunities for faculty and graduate students to work with international colleagues to address global health problems. A good example of such an activity is the partnership that the College currently is developing with Sokoine University in Tanzania, which OIRED initiated and is facilitating.

As a Center, OIRED would be better positioned to accomplish these important tasks because of the enhanced visibility on and off campus, as well as the clearer identity in regard to submission of external grant applications. The College of Veterinary Medicine looks forward to continuing our relationship with a newly established CIRED and fully supports the creation of this Center.

Sincerely

Dr. Cyril R. Clarke
Dean
October 11, 2016

From: Dr. L. Van Crowder, Executive Director
Office of International Research, Education and Development

To: Dr. Guru Ghosh, Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs

Subject: Request to create the Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED)

I am submitting this letter of intent to request approval to convert the Office of International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) into the Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED). This will increase the visibility of OIRED’s work and create a stronger campus presence that more effectively attracts and assists internal clients and stakeholders, as well as allow the center to engage more effectively with external partners.

The center will support Virginia Tech’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s vast knowledge and applying it to raising standards of living in developing countries.

Objectives of the center will include providing opportunities and building capacity for the university’s involvement in international research, education and development; identifying and promoting high-priority themes and issues and strategically focusing on country- and region-specific collaborations; generating and communicating information to a range of audiences about the University’s and the center’s international activities; and increasing and diversifying funding sources.

CIRED will be a college-level center housed in Outreach and International Affairs (OIA). The CIRED Executive Director will plan and develop projects, programs and activities in consultation with the Vice President of OIA and the Associate Vice President for International Affairs.

As part of its governance structure, the center will form a stakeholder/advisory committee to support and provide guidance to the aims and objectives of the center. As is the case with OIRED, the center will continue to be funded through a combination of university funding, sponsored projects and returned overhead. Through its broad mission of research and education, the center will collaborate with the university’s colleges, schools, institutes and other centers.

If the proposal to create CIRED meets with your approval, I am prepared to proceed with a formal proposal that includes a full charter and letters of endorsement from units that will have a significant role in the proposed Center for International Research, Education and Development.
March 28, 2017

Dr. Guru Ghosh  
Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs  
Gateway Center 120  
902 Prices Fork Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Ghosh,

I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to transition the Office for International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) to a college-level Center for International Research, Education and Development (CIRED) to be located in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs.

For many years, OIRED has provided essential support and resources to the University faculty, administration and staff to acquire and implement international projects and activities. This is accomplished by drawing on and strengthening the expertise of faculty, staff and students in units, departments and colleges across Virginia Tech’s campus. As a Center, it will be even better positioned to draw on the university’s expertise to address complex global problems, and thus contribute more significantly to Virginia Tech’s role as global land-grant university.

Numerous faculty members in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences are currently engaged in international activities, or have expressed interest in such engagement. The proposed creation of CIRED will assure increased accessibility to services and support for our faculty in development of international projects and pursuit of funding, which will strengthen and broaden the impact of international activities in our college. The new Center will improve the visibility of our international endeavors across campus and enhance our engagement with external stakeholders.

I endorse the mission of CIRED to support the university’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s vast knowledge and applying this knowledge through multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional partnerships to raise standards of living in developing countries. I believe this is an exciting opportunity to establish Virginia Tech as a leader globally for Research, Education and Development. CIRED will be central to strategic approaches and practical models for international engagement that will position Virginia Tech as a pre-eminent global land-grant university leader.

Invent the Future  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY  
An equal opportunity, affirmative action institution
The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences looks forward to continuing our relationship with CIRED and fully supports the creation of this Center. We appreciate the opportunity to expand the university's capacity in this area.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Alan Grant
Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
April 11, 2017

Dr. Guru Ghosh
Office of the Vice President for Outreach and International Affairs
Gateway Center 120
902 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Dear Dr. Ghosh:

I am writing to support the proposal to transition the Office for International Research, Education and Development (OIRED) to a university-level Center for International Research, Education, and Development (CIRED) to be located in the Office of Outreach and International Affairs.

For many years, OIRED has provided essential support and resources for implementation of international projects and activities. As a Center, CIRED will be even better positioned to draw on the university’s expertise to address complex global problems, and thus contribute more significantly to Virginia Tech’s role as a global land-grant university.

Numerous faculty in our college are currently engaged in international activities. The proposed creation of CIRED will assure increased accessibility to services and support as they develop international projects and pursue funding. The new Center will improve visibility of international endeavors across campus and enhance engagement with external stakeholders.

I endorse the intention of CIRED to support the university’s global mission by developing and managing projects that draw on Virginia Tech’s vast knowledge and applying this knowledge through multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional partnerships to raise standards of living in developing countries. CIRED will be central to strategic approaches and practical models for international engagement that will position Virginia Tech as a pre-eminent global land-grant university leader.

Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences look forward to having a productive relationship with CIRED and I fully support the creation of this Center.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Blieszner
Interim Dean
Alumni Distinguished Professor
College of Liberal Arts & Human Sciences