

**VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY
(Agency 208)**

Capital Project Budget Amendment Proposal

Construct Data and Decision Sciences Building

	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
Additional Funds Requested:		
General Fund	\$0	\$79,000,000
Nongeneral Fund	\$0	\$0

Virginia Tech has implemented a cutting-edge academic program to meet the demands of commercial and government organizations seeking employees with strong skills and training in computer science, data analytics, and related quantitative methods. This program is known as *Data and Decision Sciences* (DADS) and is essential to fulfilling the state's workforce development plan for technology degrees in the Commonwealth. In particular, this program is essential to achieving the state's computer sciences degrees in accordance with the Amazon partnership. As part of the plan, Virginia Tech will increase undergraduate computer sciences enrollments by 2,000 students over the next several years. The growth in undergraduate degrees will occur at the Blacksburg campus, and this project is essential to accommodate an expansion of enrollments for the desired degree production.

The goal of DADS is to advance the capability sought by commercial and government to translate an exponentially growing and unorganized sea of data into actionable intelligence and decisions. The University's program develops students thoroughly versed in software development, data analytics, and decision sciences and prepared to enter the work force with these skills and engage private industry.

To implement the vision for the DADS program, the University requires new space to house the additional faculty and to teach the growing number of students. The critical facility for this initiative on the Blacksburg campus is the Data and Decision Sciences Building. The space needs call for 120,000 gross square feet of undergraduate instruction classrooms, laboratories, and faculty offices. Specifically, the building calls for 32 large classrooms, eight large data processing class laboratories, 19 student-team project spaces and conference spaces, and 106 shared faculty office spaces. The total project cost estimate is \$79 million and is essential to meet the University's commitment to produce computer science degrees to meet the state's call for more talent desired by commercial organizations.

This request is for a \$79 million General Fund appropriation to complete design and construction for the Data and Decision Sciences Building.