

# The Land Development Design Industry (LDDI)

*Part of the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program at Virginia Tech*

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING  
THE CHARLES E. VIA JR. DEPARTMENT OF  
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING  
VIRGINIA TECH.

BOWMAN SUSTAINABLE  
LAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



## PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings, and welcome to the 2023 LDDI Annual Report. I extend to you warm greetings on behalf of myself, Assistant LDDI Coordinator Claire White, and the LDDI Executive Board. The past year was one of great significance and inflection for LDDI, and it with much excitement that I present this report to share with you some very exciting happenings. I would be remiss to begin anywhere other than to recognize the generous gift of \$5 million committed last November by Gary Bowman to the Via Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering to establish the Bowman Sustainable Land Development (BSLD) Program. LDDI is now a part of the BSLD program, alongside its undergraduate and graduate academic components. This gift continues Gary's long history of giving back to Virginia Tech, and I wish to personally thank him for this most recent gift, as well as for his early vision and effort to help launch LDDI. Coinciding with the inclusion of LDDI in the BSLD program, this year the LDDI acronym was redefined to the Land Development Design *Industry*, highlighting that the program is no longer an "initiative," but rather the portal through which the land development industry connects and engages with Virginia Tech students. The name may have changed, but the unrelenting commitment to entrench Virginia Tech as the leader in land development education remains.



Last year also saw significant changes among program leadership, with the departure of Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford from the LDDI Executive Board. Their respective involvement with LDDI beginning in 2007 and 2015, Jeff and Sue were instrumental in the development of the LDDI strategic plan adopted in 2021. I cannot begin thank Jeff and Sue enough for their contributions to LDDI over the years, and we look forward to Jeff's continuing involvement and wish Sue all the best in retirement. Replacing Jeff and Sue on the Executive Board are LDDI alumni Michael Cardman and Jessie Ponce de Leon, their membership on the Board fulfilling a major objective expressed in the 2021 LDDI strategic plan, that being to create a means by which LDDI graduates could become involved in program leadership and steering its future direction. Another element of the strategic plan that continued to evolve and grow this year is the Industry Advisory Group (IAG). Initially comprised of four standing committees, during the fall 2022 semester, the IAG expanded to include a fifth committee – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). You can read more about each of these committees in this report, and I invite you to become involved with the one most aligned to your personal interests.

Each year, this greeting provides a platform through which I can offer much-deserved gratitude to the industry professionals who contribute to LDDI. First, I wish to thank by name members of the LDDI Executive Board – outgoing members Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford, incoming members Michael Cardman and Jessie Ponce de Leon, Chair Alisa Cowen, Vice Chair Jack Vega, and Skip Notte. I also extend thanks to the individuals who volunteer their time and professional talents to support LDDI through their service on the IAG. Next, I wish to thank the 47 organizations who supported LDDI financially as corporate sponsors and municipal members during our 2022-23 sponsorship cycle. These sponsorships remain critical to LDDI and directly support a majority of the program's annual course offerings. I also wish to thank everyone who contributed to LDDI personally over the past year, including the more than 80 individuals who made a personal donation to LDDI on Virginia Tech's 2023 Giving Day. To everyone who has supported LDDI over the previous year – THANK YOU!

I am joined at Virginia Tech by outstanding colleagues who, like LDDI's industry partners, are deserving of their own recognition and praise. CEE Department Head Dr. Mark Widdowson continues to be a strong supporter of LDDI, and Claire, Sustainable Land Development M.S. Program Coordinator Dr. Tripp Shealy, and I are actively working with Mark to implement the Bowman gift in ways that achieve the most positive impact. This year, we were thrilled to welcome Holly Casey who joined the Virginia Tech faculty last August as an Assistant Professor of Practice. Holly's hiring had an immediate impact on the number of LDDI course offerings last academic year. Finally, I congratulate my colleague, LDDI Assistant Coordinator Claire White, on her recent promotion to Associate Professor of Practice and thank her for another great year of collaboration. Each year, preparing this report provides Claire and me with an opportunity to reflect on the previous year, and I hope you will share our excitement as you read about its highlights in the pages that follow.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K D Young".

Kevin D. Young, P.E., M.ASCE

Coordinator, Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program  
Associate Professor of Practice, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Virginia Tech

## LDDI EXECUTIVE BOARD'S MESSAGE

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As Chair and Vice Chair of the LDDI Executive Board, it is our pleasure and privilege to address you in this year's LDDI Annual Report. The past year has witnessed changes among the individuals comprising the Board on whose behalf we write, and that's where we wish to begin our message as these changes in a way represent a microcosm of the continuing growth and evolution of the LDDI program as a whole. This spring, Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford rotated off of the Board per the schedule detailed in the LDDI strategic plan adopted in 2001. Their involvement with LDDI beginning in 2007 and 2015, respectively, Jeff and Sue have contributed to LDDI in more ways than can ever be fully tallied and we offer our utmost gratitude for their leadership, vision, and commitment to Virginia Tech students over the years. Throughout the spring, Jeff and Sue continued their legacies of service by acting as mentors for incoming Board members Michael Cardman and Jessie Ponce de Leon. Each an alumnus of the program, we are thrilled to welcome Michael and Jessie to the Board and look forward to their energy and ideas, and the unique vantage point each possesses as a former student. Our Board remains committed to supporting Kevin, Claire, and LDDI students in every way possible.

The past year was monumental for LDDI. In November, the generous commitment of a \$5 million gift from Gary Bowman to the Via Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering established the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program of which LDDI is now a part. Many of us were able to celebrate with Gary at a reception in Tysons in December, and the Board wishes to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Gary once again for his nearly two decades of support for LDDI. It has been wonderful to see the early impacts of Gary's gift, including the inaugural distinguished lecture held in April and the rapid growth of the Sustainable Land Development M.S. program.

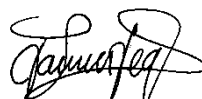
Last year was also noteworthy for the LDDI corporate sponsorship program, which enjoyed the support of 47 sponsors contributing nearly \$250,000 in operating revenue. Beyond the financial implications of the corporate sponsorship program, sponsoring firms also provide the pipeline of professionals who serve on the LDDI Industry Advisory Group, as design project mentors, as guest speakers in LDDI courses, and in countless other ways. We remain grateful for the support of the LDDI corporate network, and as a Board we embrace our responsibility to continually identify and help to implement new ways for sponsoring organizations to engage with and recruit LDDI's talented students.

One of our Board's paramount missions is to support the wonderful Virginia Tech faculty who make LDDI function at the "ground level." The past year once again finds us with reason to celebrate the achievements of these faculty members. First, we congratulate LDDI Coordinator Kevin Young on receiving the 2023 Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Next, we celebrate the promotion of LDDI Assistant Coordinator Claire White to Associate Professor of Practice. And last but certainly not least, we welcome Holly Casey to the LDDI family. Holly joined the Virginia Tech faculty in August as an Assistant Professor of Practice and we are excited to watch her grow and develop as an instructor. While we acknowledge our bias, our Board believes that LDDI benefits from some of the most committed, talented, and student-focused faculty in the entire College of Engineering!

We hope you will enjoy reading this year's Annual Report and that it inspires you to become involved in the program. On behalf of the entire LDDI Executive Board we thank you for your support!



Alisa S. T. Cowen, LA, AICP  
Chair, LDDI Executive Board  
Owner, Cowen Design Group  
(703) 528-4424  
acowen@cowendesigngroup.com



J. I. (Jack) Vega, PE  
Vice Chair, LDDI Executive Board  
Deputy Executive Director, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation  
(703) 563-5320  
jvega@claudemoore.org

## MEET THE LDDI EXECUTIVE BOARD

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**Alisa S. T. Cowen, LA, AICP**  
Chair – LDDI Executive Board  
Owner, Cowen Design Group



**J. I. (Jack) Vega, PE**  
Vice Chair – LDDI Executive Board  
Deputy Executive Director,  
Claude Moore Charitable Foundation



**Michael Cardman, PE**  
Principal, Bowman Consulting  
Director of Operations & Finance, Lansdowne  
Development Group



**Jeff Gilliland, PE**  
Principal, J2 Engineers, Inc. (J2)



**Skip Notte, PE**  
Vice President/Business Unit Manager, Dewberry



**Jessie Ponce de Leon, PE**  
Managing Partner, GordonDC



**Susan Wolford, PLA, AICP, LEED GA, ENV SP**  
Retired, former Regional Vice President, Pennoni



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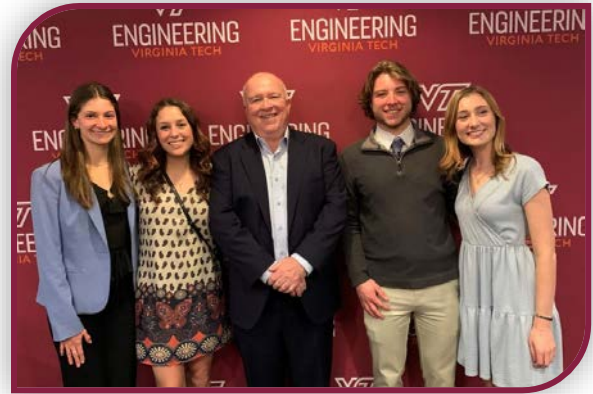
## LDDI MILESTONES

### Bowman Gift of \$5 Million Strengthens Students' Path to Sustainable Land Development Design

By: Courtney Sakry

In the late 20th century, Virginia Tech students and young professionals did not have many opportunities to explore land development design in college. Establishment of the Land Development Design Initiative (LDDI) in about 2005 changed that. Now, all civil engineering students learn about land development design early in their college experience, which allows them to make calculated decisions about entering this broad industry.

**Gary Bowman**, who graduated in 1980 with a degree in civil and environmental engineering, didn't get to experience LDDI's benefits as a student, but he is passionate about creating such learning opportunities for current and future engineers. Bowman has committed \$5 million to the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to expand learning initiatives in sustainable land development.



Gary Bowman with undergraduate and graduate students at December celebration in Tysons, VA

The Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program will encompass the undergraduate and graduate academic components of sustainable land development, including the sustainable land development master's program, now in its second year. The Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program will also now encompass the Land Development Design Initiative, which was renamed the Land Development Design Industry and continues to serve as a portal through which individuals and organizations in the land development industry can provide input on curriculum and engage with students through mentoring and experiential learning opportunities.

*"The Bowman gift solidifies Virginia Tech as the premier undergraduate and graduate programs in the field of sustainable land development," said Via department head **Mark Widdowson**. "In partnership with the land development industry and through the generosity of Gary Bowman, our department has set the standard for curriculum innovation and experiential learning that will enrich the education of civil engineering students for years and decades to come."*

#### Initiative history

The Land Development Design Initiative began as a collaboration between the Via department and professionals across all sectors of the land development industry. Bill Knocke, department head at the time, and Randy Dymond, a professor in the civil and environmental engineering department at the time, identified a need based on repeated calls from industry leaders. Dymond noticed in his interactions with students that they were entering the land development field with knowledge only from a single elective course taught by an adjunct professor.

Leaders for the initiative tapped into the large network of civil and environmental engineering alumni in industry. They held outreach "road shows" in Northern Virginia, Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Roanoke to solicit alumni support for their mission. These small gatherings developed into a large network of industry support across the country, far exceeding original expectations. As a result, Virginia Tech has become a nationally recognized leader in undergraduate, and now graduate, land development design education.



*"I played a relatively small role in getting LDDI up and running," Bowman said. "Many others have put much more time and energy into it than I have. However, together our support over the years has resulted in something that is quite special and unique. It provides direction and education to students that they cannot get anywhere else."*

That direction and education comes from the engaged participation of Bowman and like-minded alumni and industry professionals throughout the college experience. Today, there are nearly 800 individuals representing 100 organizations in the initiative's industry-affiliated database. These industry affiliates contribute ideas for curriculum improvement, opportunities for practitioner engagement with students, and other suggestions for improving the program.

In addition to providing mentors inside the classroom, the initiative strives to acquaint students with different career opportunities within the broad land development industry, including municipal engineering, real estate, and specialized areas of sustainability. *"At the time of LDDI's founding and continuing to this day, few civil engineering programs have even a single course focused on land development design,"* said **Kevin Young**, program coordinator and associate professor of practice in the Via department. *"This program provides Virginia Tech students with five individual courses in this discipline, which is unique [compared] to other programs,"*

### *Gifting new opportunities for future students*

Bowman founded Bowman Consulting in 1995 as a small firm focused on the planning and design of residential communities throughout Northern Virginia. Bowman Consulting, with Gary Bowman as the company's chief executive officer, has grown into a 1,700-person publicly traded design and consulting firm with offices throughout the United States. The firm has been recognized for its growth over the years by numerous publications. But supporting this growth early on had its challenges, especially the limited numbers of students with land development and design education, Bowman said, adding that the program that now bears his name has helped change that dynamic for the better.

*"When I began to recruit students from Virginia Tech 25 years ago, most students were unaware of land development design as a potential career path,"* Bowman said. *"The establishment of LDDI resulted in a sea change in awareness among Virginia Tech students of land development design as a desirable career choice. Clearly the industry, and our company, has benefited from the influx of well-prepared young talent."* Bowman is grateful for his leadership role in industry and said he hopes his gift will allow more young engineers to pursue this rewarding career path.

The growth of the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program will go far beyond making engineers simply aware of sustainable land development. Young, who will continue to lead the program, noted that the gift will provide more experiential learning opportunities, such as field trips and practitioner-led workshops, guest lectures, product exhibitions, and networking events.

*"This gift will help us move forward in the vision of the College of Engineering by providing access to hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for land development students,"* said **Julia M. Ross**, the Paul and Dorothea Torgersen Dean of Engineering at Virginia Tech. *"I want to thank the Bowman family for this gift that will create possibilities to attract the best students and provide dynamic experiences as they begin their careers in engineering."*

Bowman has a long history of giving back to the university. This includes serving on the College of Engineering Advisory Board and the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Board. He also is a member of the Via department's Academy of Distinguished Alumni, which honors graduates for their accomplishments and commitment to the profession and the university. During the Land Development Design Initiative's early years, Bowman served on the program's leadership board. Bowman's wife, Terri, and son Greg are both graduates of the Pamplin College of Business.

*"The program has withstood the test of time and has blossomed into a mature program educating a tremendous number of students,"* Bowman said. *"My hope is that this gift will be the beginning of a new level of support for the program that will ensure its long-term durability and provide resources to enable it to continue to grow and evolve."*

## Sustainable Land Development M.S. Program

The Sustainable Land Development Master of Science program celebrated its second year this past academic year with five new graduates. This program provides opportunities not only for students interested in land development but also those who are interested in an interdisciplinary civil engineering degree. **Dr. Tripp Shealy**, VT CEE Associate Professor, serves as the coordinator for the graduate program and collaborates with Kevin, Claire, LDDI practitioners, and other CEE faculty members to further develop the program.

As with the other Master of Science in civil engineering degrees, the program requires 30 credit hours which include core LDDI courses such as Land Development Design and Sustainable Land Development in addition to Adaptive Reuse, offered at the graduate-level only. Students also complete 21 credits of electives inside and outside of CEE as determined by the student and approved by their advising committee. This past year, students took elective classes in Urban Affairs and Planning, Geography, and Building Construction, as well as courses across the traditional civil engineering disciplines. Also similar to other master's programs, students may choose between thesis, project and report, and coursework-only options. Additionally, up to 50% of the coursework can be completed outside of Virginia Tech's Blacksburg campus, opening up greater flexibility for students and professionals alike to enroll in the program. Students have the opportunity to engage in sustainable land development research as well as experience the involvement of industry practitioners that is a staple in LDDI's undergraduate curriculum. In the past year, graduate students interacted regularly with the LDDI network at the Friday seminar series last fall in addition to two of the graduate students presenting at LDDI's spring General Meeting. LDDI also supports the graduate students through the mentoring program within the Land Development Design course, one of the required core courses.



**Adaptive Reuse class visits Prices Fork Village, a former elementary school converted into apartments, a brewery, and restaurant spaces**

The goal in establishing this new graduate program is for Virginia Tech to become nationally recognized for our students advancing sustainable land development. Through the second year of the program, we see sustained growth. Dr. Shealy said, *"The growth and success of our Sustainable Land Development Master of Science program continues with five students who graduated this spring and an additional six set to begin their journey in the fall. We continue to strive to attract top talent and work to expand our reach to include more students whose undergraduate degrees are not in civil engineering. To achieve further growth and recognition, we plan on focusing on elevating the program's brand by updating our website, enhancing video content, and actively engaging with professionals and potential students in new ways online."*

No similar program exists at the graduate level in civil engineering across the country, which makes it attractive to both Virginia Tech civil engineering undergraduate students as well students from other departments and universities. We recognize that sustainable land development involves knowledge and skills that span multiple disciplines within and outside of civil and environmental engineering and have designed the master's degree to foster this type of interdisciplinary thinking. The program is unique within the Department and nationally, because it opens up opportunities for students to explore how sustainability, planning, and engineering design work together. Students graduate ready to contribute



to conceptual design, comprehensive planning, grading, erosion and sediment control, and stormwater management processes. They can also articulate to clients the effects of particular types of development on transportation, utility, social-economic, and environmental systems. Through this advanced degree, students are exposed to unique projects and case studies, which will help them foresee the potential barriers to sustainable land development and equip them with tools to help overcome these barriers. **Nicole Fontenot** graduated with her B.S. in Civil Engineering in 2022 from Virginia Tech, followed by her M.S. in Civil Engineering in 2023. Of the program, she offered, *"LDDI is so successful in the undergraduate curriculum, so I was thrilled when I learned it was being carried to the graduate curriculum as well. The Bowman Sustainable Land Development (BSLD) graduate program provides students with an avenue to expand on their interests within land development before going into industry. On top of expanding my knowledge of land development, I have also been able to improve my soft skills and grow my professional network. The BSLD graduate program is truly one of a kind, and I cannot wait to see it continue to grow in the upcoming years."*

We are also growing the number of graduate courses related to sustainable land development and the flexibility of these course offerings at Virginia Tech. This past year, Dr. Shealy developed a graduate level course on adaptive reuse and redevelopment, which had 15 students enrolled, and we anticipate this becoming one of the core course options in the future. Dr. Shealy said the purpose of the course *"is for students to experience many of the complex issues that are involved with redevelopment. The course includes topics like brownfield remediation, engineering control techniques, historic preservation grants, regulatory challenges, and life cycle cost analysis. The course also touches on how infrastructure projects can be the impetus for large redevelopment. Students learn through case studies about the effects of road diets and new transit lines on the redevelopment potential of a corridor. Several LDDI sponsoring companies have helped me curate case studies teaching our students about how to create economic development plans, how to follow design guidelines for special district zones, and about the unique financial structures when dealing with large scale redevelopment."*

As we look ahead to the next year, we are working with LDDI sponsors to pilot an internship experience that also helps students meet the M.S. project and report exit option requirements. This partnership will provide the graduate students with valuable industry experience while fulfilling requirements for their graduate degree. Of this partnership, Dr. Shealy shared, *"we hope this opportunity will grow the number of students looking for internships with LDDI companies and further enhance our M.S. students' practical skills and knowledge about the professional environment."*



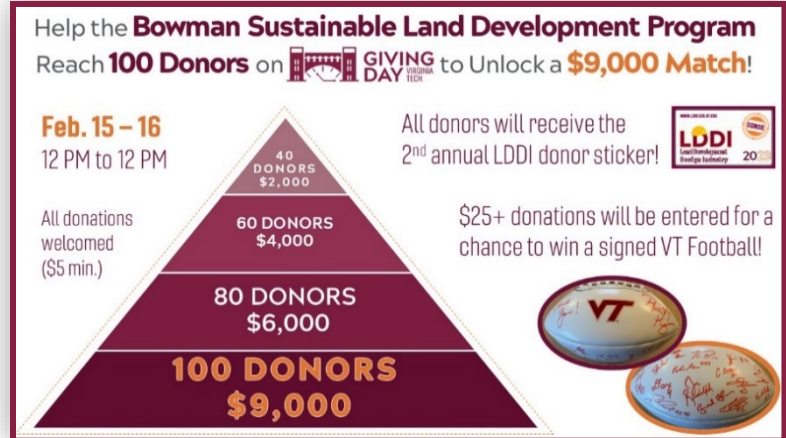
**Adaptive Reuse class visits North Main Street in preparation for developing new design guidelines to balance commercial activity, housing, and walking**

Additionally, we will also revise the coursework only exit option guidelines to provide greater flexibility to students and investigate a course sequence that allows students to complete their M.S. degree with one semester on campus and the rest completed remotely. Dr. Shealy offered that these revisions *"will include more business and management-related courses and urban and regional planning courses to ensure that all students can tailor their learning experience to suit their individual goals. We also think this is important given the interdisciplinary collaboration across disciplines required for working in the land development industry."*

Finally, we anticipate continuing collaboration with the LDDI network to review and provide input on graduate student master's projects and research. We continue to welcome feedback on the graduate program on skills and knowledge valued by the land development industry.

## LDDI Enjoys Giving Day Success

Virginia Tech's 2023 Giving Day was held on February 15th and 16th, and once again the program enjoyed support from a wide range of donors that included program founders, long-time members, recent graduates, and even current students. Giving Day at Virginia Tech is described as a 24-hour celebration of the Hokie Spirit and the power of giving back, and provides a special opportunity for Virginia Tech students, employees, alumni, family, and friends to come together and show support for their favorite departments, programs, student organizations, and teams. For the third year in a row, LDDI Special Events Committee Co-Chair Caleb Hurst (ATCS) worked to



assemble a group of matching donors to incentivize others to give through a tiered challenge that unlocked various match amounts as the number of total donors grew. Caleb's efforts helped LDDI receive Giving Day donations from more than 80 individuals who, in total, contributed nearly \$16,000. Of this year's Giving Day, Caleb offers, "It is exciting to see the generosity of the LDDI community and friends, whether through the challenge group or individual donors on Giving Day. The outpouring of support shows the value and respect for this program, even with the recent news of the endowment. We very much appreciate all those who donated on Giving Day!" We recognize and thank the following individuals who responded to Caleb's call for match donors.

To further incentivize donations on Giving Day, all individuals contributing \$25 or more were entered into a pool to win a Virginia Tech football signed by the 2023 coaching staff and team captains. The recipient of the signed football was Glenn Custis (TRC Companies) who shared, "Virginia Tech's LDDI program has long been something that I believe in personally, and that has been supported by Draper Aden Associates (now TRC) from its very beginning. It's satisfying to know that my Giving Day contribution goes to directly support the educational experience of students entering the field in which I have made my career. Winning the signed Virginia Tech football is icing on the cake!"

2023 also marks the second year in a row that all Giving Day donors will receive a commemorative LDDI decal. On behalf of the entire Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program, we thank everyone who contributed on Virginia Tech's 2023 Giving Day and recognize the following match donors:

- Brett Buckland
- Alisa Cowen
- Diana Doan
- Nick Fattman
- Andy Gorecki
- Laura Hall
- Suzy Harding
- Meghan Hekl
- Caleb Hurst
- Bob Jansen
- Meredith Jones
- Bill Junda
- Jeff Lighthiser
- Kevin Murray
- Jack Rinker
- Alex Sarant
- Ryan Stephenson
- John Tedesco
- Brian Utterback
- Jack Vega
- Claire White
- Sue Wolford

## LDDI Industry Advisory Group Update

The LDDI Industry Advisory Group (IAG) along with the Executive Board (EB) was established in 2021 and is now comprised of five standing committees: Brand Awareness; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging; Membership, Practitioner/Technical/Research, and Special Events. It is the professionals serving on the IAG that helps to make LDDI so unique and distinguishes the program from those at other universities. The following section summarizes some of the past year's happenings within the IAG and recognizes members of the IAG and EB for their personal achievements.

### *Michael Cardman and Jessie Ponce de Leon Join LDDI Executive Board*

Established in 2007, the LDDI Advisory Board served as the program's primary governing body for nearly 15 years. In 2021, LDDI adopted a new organizational structure and in doing so replaced the Advisory Board with a 5–9-member Executive Board. The catalysts for this change were twofold: first, to create a leadership structure that could more nimbly respond to evolving and changing program needs and, second, to create a means by which LDDI graduates could become involved in program leadership. We are thrilled to announce that **Michael Cardman** and **Jessie Ponce de Leon**, both LDDI graduates, accepted invitations to join the Executive Board earlier this year. Throughout the spring semester, Michael and Jessie "shadowed" outgoing Board members Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford before becoming formal, voting members in May.

Jessie is a 2008 Virginia Tech Civil Engineering alumna, and currently serves as a Managing Partner with LDDI Platinum Sponsor GordonDC. During her time as a student, Jessie completed CEE 4274 – Land Development Design, and cites her experience in the course as the launch point for her career in land development. Jessie has been with Gordon since first joining the firm as an intern in 2006, and previously served as Director of the firm's D.C. land development operations before launching Gordon's physical extension into D.C. via creation of GordonDC, assuming the role of Managing Partner in December 2021. Jessie is an active member and former Chair of the CEE Alumni Board, and earlier this year she was recognized as a Washington Business Journal's "40 Under 40" Honoree. She also serves as Co-Chair of ULI's Women's Leadership Initiative and Chair of the organization's Community Engagement Committee. A frequent guest lecturer in LDDI courses, Jessie offers, "It's been a pure joy to participate in the junior-level course over the past few years and to see so many engineering students interested in land development. Many of these students go on to take advanced land development courses, which is a testament to the success of the LDDI program and its mission to shape young engineers."

Michael holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech (2011) and a M.P.S. in Finance with a focus in real estate from Georgetown University (2014). He currently serves as a Principal with Bowman; is the Director of Operations and Finance for Lansdowne Development Group; and holds adjunct instructing positions at Virginia Tech and Georgetown University. During his time as a student, Michael completed CEE 3274 – Introduction to Land Development Design, CEE 4274 – Land Development Design, and CEE 4284 – Advanced Land Development Design. Of joining the Executive Board, Michael states, "I am honored to serve among such impressively strong board members. I hope I am able to continue to make positive and lasting contributions to the program and ultimately the students it supports."

Please join us in welcoming Michael and Jessie to the LDDI Executive Board.

### *LDDI Thanks Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford for Their Service on LDDI Executive Board*

When LDDI adopted a new organizational structure in the spring of 2021, a five-member Executive Board replaced an Advisory Board that, at one point, had a membership of more than 40 land development professionals. The inaugural Executive Board was comprised of Chair Jeff Gilliland (J2 Engineers), Vice Chair Alisa Cowen (Cowen Design Group), Skip Notte (Dewberry), Jack Vega (Claude Moore Charitable Foundation), and Sue Wolford (Pennoni). These remained the lone members of the newly formed Executive Board until this spring when Michael Cardman (Bowman) and Jessie Ponce de Leon (GordonDC) were welcomed as members. Coinciding with Michael and Jessie joining the Board, Jeff Gilliland and Sue Wolford transitioned out of their roles as active, voting members. LDDI takes this opportunity to thank Jeff and Sue for their service on the

inaugural LDDI Executive Board, and for the myriad of ways in which each has demonstrated unrelenting support for the program over many years.

**Jeff Gilliland** first became involved with LDDI in 2007 when founding member Gary Bowman invited him to attend an early outreach meeting. Jeff joined the LDDI Advisory Board the following year, and between 2008 and the Advisory Board's dissolution in 2021, he served multiple terms as both the Board's Chair and Vice Chair. Throughout the spring 2021 semester, Jeff and Sue selflessly gave of their time, meeting with LDDI Coordinator Kevin Young and Assistant Coordinator Claire White on a weekly basis as a new organizational model and strategic plan took shape. While Jeff's leadership and vision have been invaluable to LDDI over the years, his passion lies in creating meaningful learning experiences and providing career and life advice to students. A frequent senior design project mentor, Jeff is also credited with developing the fall semester Value Engineering Workshop and, during the spring 2022 semester, he debuted a new Professional Development Workshop. Jeff has also served as a past field trip host and as a frequent guest lecturer in multiple LDDI (and other CEE) courses. Though he may be stepping away from his role on the LDDI Executive Board, we look forward to keeping Jeff involved and engaged with LDDI students for many years to come!

In 2022, **Sue Wolford** retired as Regional Vice President for Pennoni's Virginia and North Carolina operations after nearly 25 years with the company. Though largely removed from other professional commitments, Sue generously continued her service on the LDDI Executive Board over the past year. Sue first joined the LDDI Advisory Board in 2015 and held the positions of both Board Chair and Vice Chair before becoming the inaugural Vice Chair of the LDDI Executive Board. A landscape architect by trade, Sue has been a frequent senior design project mentor and guest lecturer in Introduction to Land Development Design (CEE 3274) and Sustainable Land Development (CEE 4264), and for the past eight years she has played a key role in organizing the annual Land Development Professionals Golf Tournament, proceeds from which benefit LDDI's affiliated 501(c)(3) entity. Though she is a proud alumna of Penn State, Sue has contributed significantly to improving the land development design experience at Virginia Tech, and she offers, *"It was almost 10 years ago when Randy [Dymond] asked me to join the LDDI Advisory Board. I was a little skeptical as I reminded him that I was not an engineer, and I did not graduate from Virginia Tech. But I agreed, and it was one of the most fulfilling decisions I've made! I quickly began to appreciate the quality of the program, the unique credentials of the instructors, and the value it brought to the land development industry. Now as I step away from my career and into retirement, I reminisce of that early involvement and how LDDI has grown and developed into a highly valued and recognized program. Thank you for letting me be a part of this unique and outstanding program!!"*

Please join us in recognizing and thanking Jeff and Sue for their contributions to LDDI and the indelible mark each has left on the program.

### *James Patteson and Jessie Ponce de Leon Recognized by CEE Department*

In 1998, The Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the CEE Alumni Board formally initiated an Alumni Achievement Awards program as a means of recognizing the achievements of younger alumni as well as honoring the career achievements of those who graduated from the department years ago. In support of this program, each spring the Department hosts a banquet during which inductions are made into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni. Recipients of the Department's Outstanding Young Alumni Award are also recognized at the banquet. At this spring's banquet, two long-time LDDI contributors were honored, and we congratulate Jessie Ponce de Leon and James Patteson for receiving the Outstanding Young Alumni Award and induction into the Academy of Distinguished Alumni, respectively.

**Jessie Ponce de Leon** is a 2008 Virginia Tech Civil Engineering alumna, and currently serves as a Managing Partner with LDDI Platinum Sponsor GordonDC. During her time as a student, Jessie completed CEE 4274 – Land Development Design, and cites her experience in the course as the launch point for her career in land development. Jessie has been with Gordon since first joining the firm as an intern in 2006, and previously served as Project Engineer and Director of the firm's D.C. land development operations before assuming the role of Managing Partner in December 2021. Jessie is a frequent guest lecturer in LDDI courses, an active member and former Chair of the CEE Alumni Board, and was recognized as a Washington Business Journal's "40 Under 40" Honoree in 2022. On receiving a 2023 Virginia Tech CEE Outstanding Young Alumni award, Jessie

offers, *"I'm truly honored to be acknowledged in this fashion. As a senior sitting in Kevin Young's land development senior design course, I never would have imagined that nearly 15 years into my career I would be receiving such an accolade. My LDDI participation as a student gradually progressed into deeply rooted involvement as a graduate. Once I fully understood how much LDDI's success relies upon the support of industry professionals it was an easy decision to increase my engagement. To be able to give back to current students, and potentially be an example for those considering a career in land development, means so much to me."*

James is a 1984 Virginia Tech Civil Engineering alumnus and currently serves as a Principal with Blue Heron Leadership Group. Prior to his current position, James spent over 30 years with Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, including service as its Director from 2009 through 2018. In addition to his full-time career with Fairfax County, James was also instrumental in the early days of LDDI. James was one of several public works professionals who helped develop the initial offering of Municipal Engineering in the spring 2010 semester and has continued to serve as a professional mentor in the course including its most recent offering in 2022. James was an inaugural member of the LDDI Advisory Board and served on the board for over a decade. Prior to retiring from Fairfax County, James was recognized in the "Top 10 Public Works Leaders" by the American Public Works Association. James cites supporting the professional growth of others as one of his proudest accomplishments in his career and credits Virginia Tech's motto of *Ut Prosim* as one of the most valuable lessons he learned at Virginia Tech. James shares, *"The profession of civil engineering and working in local government allowed me to work toward the betterment of others – a value that was instilled in me growing up and strengthened during my time at Virginia Tech."*

Congratulations Jessie and James and thank you for everything you've contributed to LDDI and Virginia Tech civil engineering!

### *LDDI Forms Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee*

In March of 2021, LDDI adopted a new organizational structure that included the formation of an Executive Board and an Industry Advisory Group (IAG) comprised of four standing committees: Brand Awareness, Membership, Practitioner/Technical/Research, and Special Events. Over the past two years, these committees have been active in appointing Chairs and Vice Chairs, drafting charters and establishing annual budgets, and embarking on various activities to support program goals. During the fall 2022 semester, in an effort to more closely align with and support the goals of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering and the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, a fifth committee was formed – Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). The DEIB Committee will work within the LDDI organizational framework to expand diversity within the LDDI community and to foster a culture of inclusiveness. **Laura Morillo**, a Senior Project Manager with LDDI Platinum sponsor TRC Companies, has stepped up to Chair the new DEIB Committee, and hopes to draw upon her experience serving in a similar role on the Virginia Tech Alumni Board. Laura offers, *"I am excited to participate in LDDI's DEIB Committee because I am passionate about creating a culture where everyone feels that they belong, through building a diverse community where there is equitable opportunity for all to be included. I currently participate in the DEIB subcommittee for the Virginia Tech Alumni Board and have already learned so much about the topic and University efforts in this area. I look forward to supporting this committee and seeing where we can go!"*

If you would like to become involved in the DEIB or any of LDDI's other standing committees, you are invited to contact us at [lddi@vt.edu](mailto:lddi@vt.edu).



## LDDI Coordinator Honored with Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Kevin D. Young, Associate Professor of Practice and LDDI at Virginia Tech Coordinator, was awarded the Virginia Tech College of Engineering Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching at the beginning of May. He has been a faculty member in the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering department since 2006 and is also a two time alumnus, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees in civil and environmental engineering from Virginia Tech.

Kevin has been involved with LDDI since its inception, serving first as its Assistant Coordinator beginning in 2007 and transitioning into the Coordinator role beginning in 2020 in conjunction with the retirement of Dr. Randy Dymond, founding Coordinator. Within LDDI's first five years, Kevin and Dr. Dymond expanded land development education at Virginia Tech from a singular course offering to five unique courses offered eight to nine times each academic year. Through his leadership, LDDI has also raised over \$2 million since its inception to support undergraduate and graduate education, practitioner engagement, and research at Virginia Tech.

In addition to his work with LDDI, Kevin has taught over 50 course sections and over 4,000 students in the past 16 years. He teaches a variety of courses including:

- CEE 2814: CEE Measurements
- CEE 2834: Civil Engineering Drawings & Virtual Modeling
- CEE 3274: Introduction to Land Development Design
- CEE 4274/5274: Land Development Design

He also serves a critical role in coordinating the industry practitioners to teach the Advanced Land Development Course every other academic year.



Kevin Young with Dean Julie Ross and CEE Department Head, Dr. Mark Widdowson

Kevin views his role as a Professor of Practice as an opportunity to mentor students and therefore makes a personal investment in their success. In order to achieve a positive impact on his students, he recognizes that academic rigor must coexist with empathy and grace. His students frequently praise his effectiveness as an instructor, citing specifically his passion, clarity, and ability to relate course material to practical applications. He also engages the students with hands-on learning both inside and outside of the classroom. **Mandy Smith**, VT CEE Class of 2022 and current Sustainable Land Development M.S. student, completed two of Kevin's courses and is currently serving as one of his graduate teaching assistants in CEE Measurements. Mandy shared, *"Kevin is a great educator and a patient advisor. His insights and encouragement have allowed me to become more involved in LDDI and pursue graduate school becoming one of his GTA's. This opportunity has helped me develop engineering and practical skills preparing me for post grad employment. Kevin has been an incredible mentor throughout my VT experience and is an indispensable member of the LDDI program."*

Kevin is the former recipient of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering Certificate of Teaching Excellence (2015, 2018, 2021), Virginia Tech College of Engineering Sporn Award (2016), and the G.V. Loganathan Teaching Award for Excellence in Civil Engineering Education (2013).

## LDDI Assistant Coordinator Promoted to Associate Professor of Practice

In early June, Virginia Tech's Board of Visitors approved the promotion of LDDI Assistant Coordinator Claire White, P.E., ENV SP to Associate Professor of Practice. Claire joined the Virginia Tech faculty in August 2016 as an Assistant Professor of Practice with a split appointment between the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Blackwood Department of Real Estate. She moved into the LDDI Assistant Coordinator role in May 2020, and coinciding with that move also migrated to a full appointment in CEE. In addition to her instructional duties and LDDI responsibilities, Claire also serves as an undergraduate academic advisor and a member of the CEE Curriculum Committee, and was a member of the search committee that resulted in the successful hiring of Assistant Professor of Practice Holly Casey in 2022. Since joining Virginia Tech in 2016, Claire has taught more than 3,200 students across the following courses:

- CEE 2834 – CE Drawings & Virtual Modeling
- CEE 3274 – Introduction to Land Development Design
- CEE 4264/5264 – Sustainable Land Development
- CEE 4274/5274 – Land Development Design
- CEE 4804 – Professional and Legal Issues in Civil Engineering
- REAL 3024 – Applied Real Estate



Claire's dedication in the classroom is abundantly evident to her students, to her graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants, to her faculty colleagues, and to the industry professionals with whom she frequently engages. This commitment and her talent as an instructor were recognized in 2022 when she was selected to receive the CEE Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. Favorable student comments regarding Claire's impact as both an instructor and role model are in no short supply, with those comments frequently citing her ability to inspire, motivate, and make learning a fun, engaging, and interactive experience. One of her former students, **Korryn Pudleiner** (VT CEE Class of 2023) offers, *"I've had Claire White as a professor for four courses at Virginia Tech. In each of those classes, Claire achieved the course objectives in engaging and thoughtful ways. She is clearly passionate about what she teaches, and it shows in how she conducts her courses. Claire encourages students to interact with her by asking questions and fostering an environment of respect. She also encourages students to connect with each other. In CEE 4264 (Sustainable Land Development) she created a game that allowed students to team up and interact throughout the lecture. We also took multiple field trips to engage with what we were learning outside the classroom setting. During my senior year, I also served as an undergraduate TA for Claire. That position allowed me to see how Claire takes student feedback into account and grows her courses in response. Being a TA has also shown me even more how much she cares about her students' success. I'm grateful that I've had so many courses with Claire and that I've gotten to work with her during my time at Tech."*

The impression that Claire has made on the industry professionals with whom she frequently engages is similarly positive, and LDDI Executive Board Chair **Jack Vega** (Claude Moore Charitable Foundation) adds, *"I am always comforted when Claire is spearheading any effort related to LDDI. Her passion, vision and intellect, coupled with her organizational and communication skills make her incredibly effective. She effortlessly shifts gears from strategic, to tactical, to the basic needs of today and engages peers, board members and students in a productive and constructive manner. We are so glad she is part of the team."*

Promotion in academic rank is a nearly year-long process that begins with the faculty member preparing a dossier that summarizes their teaching, research, and service activities, as well as providing a personal statement. Then, during the academic year, the Virginia Tech CEE Promotion and Tenure Committee reviews the application packet, attends one of the faculty member's lectures to complete a teaching evaluation, and then makes a recommendation on the promotion. The packet is then reviewed at the College level and by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost before going before the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors for final approval.

## Holly Casey Joins CEE & Real Estate Faculty

Holly Casey is the latest faculty addition to both the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program and the Blackwood Real Estate Department in the Pamplin College of Business and made tremendous impacts to both programs in her first academic year as an Assistant Professor of Practice. A 2017 Virginia Tech Civil Engineering alumna and licensed Professional Engineer, Holly joined the Virginia Tech faculty after a tenure with LDDI Platinum sponsor Kimley-Horn where she worked as a Civil Engineering Analyst in the firm's Virginia Beach office. During her time as a student, Holly completed three LDDI courses and was an active member of the Sustainable Land Development Club (SLDC) where she attended field trips, competed in the annual design charrette competition, and participated in various club service projects. Holly also had the opportunity to serve as an undergraduate teaching assistant in LDDI's junior-level course.



This past academic year, Holly instructed two sections of the junior-level Introduction to Land Development (CEE 3274) as well as one section of Applied Real Estate Development (REAL 3024). Of her instructional debut, Holly states, *"I have always found satisfaction in teaching and mentoring others, and this role gives me the opportunity to provide students with the background and knowledge they need to find success in their future careers."* In support of this, Holly has weaved stories and experiences from her professional career into lectures to help students relate course material to real-world applications. She also has made several improvements to each of the classes she taught including new guest speakers on construction and legal issues in development as well as collaborating with a Real Estate colleague, Jonathan Everett, to update the Introduction to Land Development financial course material. Holly's contributions have been noticed by colleagues in both departments as well as students. **Lucas Alexander**, CEE senior, was enrolled in Holly's very first class last fall, and offered, *"Holly was an outstanding teacher who helped ignite my passion for land development. It was evident how dedicated she was to ensuring that every student not only comprehended the course's material, but also enjoyed the learning experience."* Lucas continued his land development studies with the senior design course in the spring and will begin his graduate studies in Sustainable Land Development this upcoming fall.

Beyond starting her instructional career, Holly is also working on her M.S. in Civil Engineering with a focus in Sustainable Land Development. Like many of our other graduate students, she is taking advantage of the interdisciplinary nature of the program, and blending courses in pedagogy and higher education along with the traditional civil engineering curriculum. This blend of courses not only compliments her professional design experience but also gives her additional background in teaching to help translate land development concepts to students. Additionally as part of her coursework, she worked with Dr. Tripp Shealy last spring to improve the graduate level Adaptive Reuse course. Some of her contributions included developing a new project focused on brownfield redevelopment, completing market research on case studies related to transit orientate development, and updating the final project and presentation to reflect a professional real estate development transaction.

With all these contributions in just the first year, we look forward to continuing to expand Holly's role and course catalog in the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program as well as continuing to foster our collaboration with the Blackwood Department of Real Estate.

## Inaugural Bowman Sustainable Land Development Distinguished Lecture

The Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program is now the second endowed and sixth overall program area within the Via Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Virginia Tech. It has been a long-standing tradition that each of these program areas hosts an annual distinguished lecture. The inaugural Bowman Sustainable Land Development Distinguished Lecture was held on April 21st, and featured President and CEO of the Instituted for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) and Virginia Tech alumnus **Anthony Kane** (B.S. in Architecture). Held at the historic Lyric theater in downtown Blacksburg, the talk drew an audience of more than 150 students, faculty, and other members of the campus and Blacksburg communities. Anthony began with discussing his own journey with sustainability, which led to his work with ISI and the Envision framework. He then explained how sustainability is a spectrum and applicable to infrastructure. Finally he concluded with project examples and why a framework like Envision matters.

A reception followed the lecture, providing attendees an opportunity to meet and talk with Anthony. **Maura Harbaugh** is a rising senior in CEE with academic interests in water resources and sustainable land development.

Of the lecture, Maura offered, *"One statement from Mr. Kane that resonated with me was his view on perfection as the enemy of positive change. He emphasized that striving for perfection often discourages people from making any change at all, as it can seem unattainable. To overcome this, he advocated for an incremental approach to sustainability. This lecture, along with the course content I have received at Virginia Tech, has shifted my mindset and enabled me to think in new and innovative ways about modern sustainability."*

During the day leading up to the lecture, Anthony had the opportunity to tour recent construction projects on Virginia Tech's campus and meet with faculty and students. Of the experience, Anthony shared, *"as a Virginia Tech alum it was a great honor to be asked to give the inaugural Bowman Sustainable Land Development Distinguished Lecture. In speaking with the students, I was struck by how Virginia Tech continues to lead in preparing the next generation of professionals for the global and societal challenges of the 21st century. It is inspiring to see Virginia Tech on the forefront of addressing the industry's pressing need for more professionals trained in sustainable development practices. I believe that Bowman Sustainable Land Development graduates will find themselves in high demand and positioned to make a lasting positive impact on the future of our planet."*



Anthony Kane at the Lyric Theater for the Inaugural Bowman Sustainable Land Development Lecture

## CURRICULUM

The 2022-2023 academic year at Virginia Tech found faculty and students engaged in hands-on, experiential learning both inside and outside of the classroom. We were able to continue welcoming guest speakers to campus and return to many of our traditional outside of the classroom activities. Practitioner engagement from LDDI sponsoring firms remained high and enhanced the student experience. In total, we offered ten sections of four unique LDDI courses with more than 415 total students enrolled. Below is a summary of the four LDDI courses followed by highlights from the past academic year.

### **Intro. To Land Development (CEE 3274)**

The first LDDI course available to VT students and for many sparks their interest in land development.

Course steps students through planning, pre-design, design, and other related topics. Course also incorporates guest speakers, hands-on activities, and software demos for Civil 3D & ArcGIS.

### **Land Development Design (CEE 4274/5274)**

Hallmark course of the LDDI program and designated senior design course

Student teams of 3 or 4 are paired with a mentoring team from an LDDI sponsoring firm. The mentors provide the project for the team to step through the design process: due diligence & concept planning, grading, stormwater management, utilities, and erosion and sediment control.

### **Sustainable Land Dev. (CEE 4264/5264)**

One of the most popular senior-level courses in the CEE Department

Course teaches students principles of sustainable design, the impact of land use intensification on the environment, and sustainable site selection criteria.

Students are also introduced to sustainable rating systems.

### **Adv. Land Development (CEE 4284)**

Taught by three teams of industry practitioners every other spring and a co-requisite with Land Development Design (CEE 4274).

Students take a more in-depth look at due diligence and site planning, stormwater design, development types, and project delivery methods.



The 2022-23 academic year featured five sections of **CEE 3274 – Introduction to Land Development Design**, serving nearly 250 civil engineering undergraduate students. Included among these five course sections were two taught by Assistant Professor of Practice Holly Casey who made her instructional debut during the fall 2022 semester. CEE 3274 continues to span a wide diversity of topics, including issues of sustainability, government regulations and economic issues that impact the land development industry, and more traditional CEE subject matter including transportation design, fluid mechanics and hydrology, grading, and erosion and sediment control. Of perhaps equal importance to the course’s material content, CEE 3274 provides a semester-long opportunity to make students aware of various career opportunities in the land development industry. The course continued its long-standing tradition of practitioner engagement, with the following individuals delivering guest lectures during the 2022-23 academic year:

- **Jessie Ponce de Leon** (GordonDC) discussed due diligence in the context of a case study on Columbian Quarter in Washington, D.C.
- **Sue Wolford, Laura Hall, and Matt Lawrence** (Pennoni) discussed sustainability including LEED and Envision rating systems.
- **Skip Notte** (Dewberry) discussed the land development engineer’s role during the permitting, bidding, and construction phases of a project.



Dewberry’s Skip Notte speaks to CEE 3274 students during the spring 2023 semester

CEE 3274 was first made available to students as a summer offering in 2021 with an enrollment of 16 students. The second summer offering of the course in 2022 featured an enrollment of 30 students, highlighting the popularity of and demand for the course. Summer offerings of the course are planned to continue in future academic years, including an offering during the second summer session of 2023. The 2022 summer offering of the course debuted a new assignment that required students to conduct a 30-minute interview with a licensed, practicing land development professional. This assignment was refined during the fall 2022 and spring 2023 semesters and is now entrenched in the course. Feedback from both students and the professional interviewees on the new assignment have been overwhelmingly positive, and it provides yet another touch point between students and industry professionals.

LDDI offered two sections of **CEE 4274/5274 – Land Development Design**, with 78 students (including 5 graduate students) and 20 design teams, each paired with its own professional mentoring team. We were excited to welcome the professional mentors to campus, and Virginia Tech videographer, Ray Meese, captured the fall mentor visit in [this video featured on VT News](#). The professional mentoring teams included seasoned veterans as well as first timers such as LandDesign. **Alex Wells** is a VT CEE Class of 2017 graduate and current Assistant Project Manager with Bohler who mentored a team this spring. He shared, *“the opportunities offered by the LDDI program, particularly the design class, are second to none. Experiencing the benefits as a student has given me a deep appreciation for the profound influence mentors have on students, which magnifies the significance of my current role as a mentor. The students’ enthusiasm to*



Student design team mentored by Bohler, selected as one of the design teams of the year

*learn about the industry is contagious and fills me with excitement for the next generation entering the field of land development.*” Per usual, the design projects offered great variety including townhouses, data centers, hotels, and more. Students also had the benefit of hearing the expertise of **Jeff Gilliland** (J2 Engineers) on grading and **Michael Cardman** (Bowman) on financial analysis of land development projects.



**Sustainable Land Development students visit the Village at Tom’s Creek**  
(photo credit: Ray Meese)

Blacksburg High School led by **Trevor Kimzey** (Foresight Design Services), and a recurring trip to Shadowlake, a co-housing development in Blacksburg, led by **Blaine Keese** and **Carol Davis** (Town of Blacksburg). Additionally, the class toured the Village at Tom’s Creek residential neighborhood, which was featured in [this video on VT News](#). Industry experts were also invited to class on multiple occasions to lend their expertise on complete streets, healthy building design, urban forestry and more. A student favorite, “Sustain-agories” (a takeoff of Scattergories) also returned as a way to increase student engagement, have fun, and earn a nominal amount of extra credit for coming up with unique responses to question prompts. For a culminating project, students worked with partners to research a sustainable land development project of their choosing, applying sustainable criteria learned throughout the semester, and preparing a short paper and presentation. The graduate students also completed a literature review on a topic of their choosing.

Completing the LDDI curriculum, and for those students who are passionate about pursuing a career in land development design, there is **CEE 4284 – Advanced Land Development Design**. First offered to students in 2007, and historically taught during the spring semester of alternating years, CEE 4284 is unique in that it is taught in its entirety by teams of professional engineers from LDDI sponsoring firms. The course is also unique in that it employs a non-traditional course schedule, meeting on Friday nights and Saturday mornings from 7-9pm and 9am-noon, respectively. This arrangement is necessary to accommodate the schedules of the industry professionals serving as course instructors, many of whom are traveling from several hours away to teach. LDDI thanks the professionals from Bohler, Dewberry, and Kimley-Horn who gave so generously of their time to teach the spring 2023 offering of CEE 4284.



**Randy Royal and Mark Boyd (Kimley-Horn) teaching Advanced Land Development**

One of the most popular courses among students in the LDDI curriculum, **CEE 4284/5284 – Sustainable Land Development**, was offered both semesters this past academic year for the first time in LDDI’s history. Enrollment included 90 undergraduate and 12 graduate students. Field trips are a staple of this course and were featured in two separate VT News videos this year including [the on-campus stormwater BMP tour](#) led by **Katelyn Muldoon**, **Mark Witt**, and **Chuck Deets** (Virginia Tech’s Site and Infrastructure Development department). Students also participated in at least two of the three local field trips scheduled for Friday afternoons. This included a brand new field trip to

The spring 2023 offering of CEE 4284 had an enrollment of 15 students, all of whom had previously completed, or were concurrently enrolled in CEE 4274. This pre/co-requisite requirement with the senior design course permits coverage of advanced and/or specialized land development topics that include but are not limited to:

- site selection, due diligence, and entitlements
- the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method
- stormwater best management practices
- floodplains
- design-build, public-private partnerships, and non-traditional project delivery methods
- infill development and unique design challenges in urban environments
- professional communication and networking

Dewberry's **Hannah Gill** served as a member of the professional instructional team during the spring 2023 semester and of the experience she offers, *"We thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the Advanced Land Development students this spring and teaching them about Virginia Stormwater Management Program requirements and providing real world examples that are our daily lives as civil engineers. The class was engaged with each presentation of our module and asked a lot of great questions - it is clear that the next generation of civil engineers is a thoughtful group of innovators that will make a meaningful impact on our industry! LDDI has always been an outstanding program and we are grateful to continue our support and collaboration with Virginia Tech."*

Students completing CEE 4284 are some of the most sought after by employers, as they are not only conversational in more advanced land development subject matter, but also have a basic proficiency in their application. While historically offered in alternating academic years, discussions are presently ongoing about offering the course every year.

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their guest lectures and mentorship in LDDI courses during the last academic year. We offer our sincerest gratitude for helping to enrich our students' educational experience!

#### Land Development Design Mentors

- ADS
- ARCO Design/Build
- ATCS
- Bohler
- Bowman
- christopher consultants, now IMEG
- Dewberry
- Edens
- J2 Engineers
- KBJW
- Kimley-Horn
- LandDesign
- McAdams
- Pennoni
- Timmons Group

#### Land Development Design Mentors (cont.)

- Townes Site Engineering
- Tri-Tek Engineering
- VHB
- WithersRavenel

#### Guest Speakers & Practitioners

- Jordan Brooks, Kimley-Horn
- Michael Cardman, Bowman
- Nathan Chapman, Dewberry
- Brian Crutchfield, Timmons Group
- Carol Davis, Town of Blacksburg
- Chuck Deets, VT SID
- Kelly Eager, Delos
- Jeff Gilliland, J2 Engineers
- Lindsey Geiger, ISI
- Ryan Gram, Kimley-Horn

#### Guest Speakers & Practitioners (cont.)

- Elizabeth Grant, GAF
- Laura Hall, Pennoni
- Ashley Harkness, Kimley-Horn
- Meghan Hekl, Kimley-Horn
- Blaine Keesee
- Trevor Kimzey, Foresight Design
- Matt Lawrence, Pennoni
- Greg Moore, ADS
- Katelyn Muldoon, VT SID
- Skip Notte, Dewberry
- Jessie Ponce de Leon, GordonDC
- Jason Scrimshaw, Kimley-Horn
- Kevin Siegel, ATCS
- Eric Wiseman, Virginia Tech
- Mark Witt, VT SID
- Sue Wolford, Pennoni

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP SUMMARY

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, LDDI enjoyed the financial support of 47 corporate sponsors and municipal members. In total, these corporate sponsors and municipal members contributed more than \$245,000 in program revenue marking this fiscal year as the most successful in program history. These funds were used to directly support LDDI critical functions and activities both inside and outside of the classroom. The following describes some of LDDI's major expense categories toward which this revenue has been directed historically and over the past year.

- *Instructional Support:* Nearly all Professor of Practice appointments at Virginia Tech are funded by external sources. Of the 10 (or 11) LDDI course-sections offered each year at Virginia Tech, revenue from corporate sponsorships and municipal memberships funds four (or five) course sections in their entirety.
- *Program Expenses:* Program expenses include support for the Sustainable Land Development Club (SLDC), including field trips, travel to service project locations, and catering for after-hours guest speakers and other events. This expense category also includes event catering for LDDI general and outreach meetings, publication of the LDDI *What's Developing* bi-monthly newsletter, and publication of the LDDI Annual Report.
- *Operations Expenses:* Operations expenses include general overhead costs including postage, printing and copying, telecommunications, and university accounting and service fees.
- *Travel and Meetings:* LDDI has historically hosted three general membership meetings each year. Outreach efforts such as these comprise a critical part of LDDI's efforts to ensure continued practitioner participation in the program.

LDDI thanks its corporate sponsors and municipal members for their continued and essential financial support!

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*"I am so thankful to have been a part of LDDI during my time as an undergraduate at Virginia Tech. I believe this program provides an amazing foundation for students to excel both throughout and after their collegiate careers. While it is hard to summarize in a couple of thoughts, LDDI has provided me with the tools and encouragement to achieve the unthinkable. What makes this program so successful is the dedication and passion expressed by its professors, staff, and industry partners. This is certainly what attracted me to LDDI. The curriculum gives students a well-rounded and real-world perspective on all things land development. Through LDDI, I have had countless opportunities to network, learn, and grow as a young professional in a supportive and fun environment. Extending beyond the classroom, I have seen land development in action and met so many amazing individuals in the industry. I am forever appreciative to have had the opportunity to grow roots in such an excellent program."*

– **Natalie Romero**, VT CEE Class of 2023, SLD MS Class of 2024



## LDDI NETWORKING EVENTS

### General Meetings and Social Events

Over the past year, LDDI hosted General Meetings in January and April in addition to networking events in July and March. The networking events in July and March were somewhat new event formats for LDDI but an excellent opportunity to reconnect with industry colleagues and LDDI sponsors in both Northern Virginia and Charlotte, NC. The LDDI General Meetings serve an important outreach function, keeping sponsors and other professionals in the land development industry informed of program activities both inside and outside of the classroom as well as a thematic topic with a panel of speakers. The meetings also provide a great opportunity to showcase students, with this year's meetings featuring presentations from the senior design and sustainable land development courses in addition to the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program's graduate students. Another important outreach component of the meetings is the networking opportunity among a diverse mix of attendees that includes consulting engineers, developers and homebuilders, product and service providers, municipal engineers, and others from the land development industry.

In lieu of a summer meeting, we held our inaugural summer social and recognition ceremony on July 14<sup>th</sup> at the Board Room in Arlington, VA. Following networking and lunch, the only formal program of the day was announcing the inaugural LDDI awards, including the Founders Award recognizing the individuals who were fundamental in beginning LDDI in 2005. The 2022 LDDI award recipients include:

- **LDDI Founders Award:**  
 Dr. Bill Knocke, Dr. Randy Dymond, Mr. Gary Bowman, Mr. Derrick Cave,  
 Mr. John DeBell, Mr. Doug Fahl, Mr. Bob Jansen,  
 Mr. Jeff Lighthiser, and Mr. Howell Simmons
- **Industry Advisory Group Member of the Year:**  
 Caleb Hurst, TRC Companies
- **Young Member of the Year:**  
 Meghan Hekl, Kimley-Horn
- **Philanthropists of the Year:**  
 John and Connie DeBell
- Practitioner Involvement Award:**  
 Skip Notte, Dewberry
- **Mentoring Team of the Year:**  
 Pennoni
- **Industry Outreach Award:**  
 Jim Bishoff, J2 Engineers



Award Winners, Meghan Hekl and Skip Notte (top) and LDDI Founders Award (bottom)



On Friday, January 13th, the Bowman Sustainable Land Development (BSLD) Program hosted its annual winter meeting at the Virginia Tech Center in Richmond, VA. Approximately 120 professionals participated in the meeting, either in-person or virtually. The thematic topic for the meeting was "Connected Cities: Innovative Development in the Greater Richmond Area." Presentations included:

- **Scott Wiley** (Timmons Group) -  
T.B. Smith Community Center
- **Cutter Sydnor** (Hewitt Solutions) -  
Solar at the Local Level
- **Ryan Yauger** (Bohler) - Midlothian Depot
- **John Carty** (VHB) - Green City
- **Derek Marshall** (Dewberry) –  
Dominion Energy Green Infrastructure



Winter Meeting Panel of Speakers

Four of the speakers were Virginia Tech alumni, two of whom were graduates of the LDDI program.

The highlight of the morning was the student presentations. To kickoff the meeting, the senior design team mentored by Pennoni delivered their presentation on a hotel in Herndon, VA. Following the networking break, students from the Sustainable Land Development course shared their case study on Seaside, FL.



Student presenters (left) and audience at Winter Meeting (right)

In the spring, LDDI had the opportunity to connect with the industry partners in Charlotte, NC through both an in-person and virtual General Meeting. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, LDDI hosted a happy hour social at Protagonist | LoSo Brewery and Pizza. Local LDDI sponsors were invited and students also attended as part of the annual spring field trip and scheduled site visits the following day. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program held its second General Meeting of the academic year via Zoom. The meeting featured a brief LDDI update, graduate student perspectives, and a panel of speakers discussing the LoSo Station project in Charlotte's Lower South End ("LoSo") neighborhood. Speakers included:

- **Jeremy Icard** (LandDesign)
- **Stephen Piermattei** (Edifice General Contractors)
- **Dennis Walls** (LandDesign)



Industry professionals and students attend LDDI Happy Hour in Charlotte

Special thanks to the LDDI Membership and Special Events committees for their efforts in organizing these events as well as the speakers and local partners who also contributed!

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*"The LDDI program at Virginia Tech has prepared me very well for my career in land development. The skills I learned in my classes have put me ahead in my entry level position and the knowledge I gained from those courses is invaluable. I recently graduated and entered the work force as a site/civil engineer, but because of the comprehensive curriculum of the LDDI program, I am already proficient in industry skills that my peers are still learning. Additionally, because of LDDI's many networking events, I am already acquainted with many professionals within the field as well as within the company I work for. Overall, the program has set me up for success in my professional career through both academic and social outreach, and I am forever grateful to have been a part of it."*

– **Nawras Zalzala**, VT CEE Class of 2023, Incoming Engineer at Dewberry

## Golf Tournament

On Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022, LDDI, Inc. hosted the eighth annual Land Development Professionals Golf Tournament at the Potomac Shores Golf Club in Dumfries, VA. LDDI, Inc. is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit whose function is to help financially support the goals and mission of the broader LDDI program. The 2022 tournament featured 30 sponsors and 31 teams, further entrenching the event as LDDI's single biggest annual fundraising event. The last day of summer provided gorgeous weather for golfers as they played the Jack Nicklaus Signature course, and as always the event provided a great networking opportunity for professionals across all sectors of the land development industry. LDDI alumni **Nick Fattman** (Langan) and **Josie Nolan** (Kimley-Horn) served as volunteers for the event, and Nick offered the following, *"I enjoyed assisting the Special Events Committee during the planning stage of the tournament. This involved coordinating sponsors, ideas for "SWAG," updating the annual tournament brochure, and giving input from my past experience playing in the tournament. I did not play this year, but I did get to apply my love for gameshows while raising funds at the event's Plinko station."*



Jo Anne Bitner and Jim Bishoff (J2 Engineers)

LDDI thanks all volunteers who worked to make the event a success, and wishes to specifically recognize **Sue Wolford**, **Jim Bishoff**, **Caleb Hurst**, **Alexa Devlin**, and other members of LDDI's Special Events Committee. We are already looking forward to the 2023 tournament and invite you to save the date of Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



Nick Fattman (Langan) and Josie Nolan (Kimley-Horn) run Plinko board (left) and Pennoni team (right)



*"I was introduced to the LDDI program starting with Intro to Land Development during my Sophomore year. I was intrigued by the depth of material covered by the course and when I learned about the industry backed professional program, I immediately jumped on board. Over the next two years, I loved the Sustainable Land Development and Adaptive Reuse classes with Professor White and Dr. Shealy. The design class gave me valuable real-world experience and has been a huge talking point during my interviews with professionals, especially those whom I met during the LDDI mixers. With the network of companies that LDDI has connected me to, I feel secure taking the next steps in my career. Thank you LDDI!"*

– Devan Eilbert, VT CEE Class of 2023



## Sustainable Land Development Seminar Series

The Sustainable Land Development M.S. program offered its second annual fall seminar series in 2022 and included an audience of undergraduate students, graduate students, and industry professionals. Within the CEE department, each graduate program area has its own seminar series in which graduate students are typically required to enroll, and undergraduate students interested in learning more about sustainable land development are also invited to attend. Taking a slightly different approach, in addition to inviting current and prospective graduate students, the LDDI professional network was provided the opportunity to register for the seminar to earn continuing education credits. The fees collected from these industry professionals were used to further support graduate education in the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program. Approximately 25 professionals registered for the seminar, including **Jessie Ponce de**



Land Development Teaching Assistants, Spring 2023

**Leon** with Gordon who also presented at the last session in December. Of the experience, Jessie shared, *"the 2022 Fall Sustainable Land Development Seminar Series had a spectacular line-up of projects and trends focused on creating a more sustainable environment, often through the lens of civil engineering principles. As one of the presenters, I chose to explore key components of Washington D.C's sustainability plan and the role a civil engineer plays in achieving the plan's goals. Our role is most often related to thoughtful stormwater management and green infrastructure implementation, which can be difficult in highly urban settings. Achieving these goals requires immense collaboration amongst the project team, thinking beyond traditional design solutions, and understanding the unique site characteristics that will provide increased sustainability opportunities."*

This year's seminar again offered a diverse list of topics including flood resilient development, green infrastructure and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, measuring the urban heat island effect in Richmond and design strategies for the pursuit of equality in urban environments, large-scale solar projects balancing development and conservation, and insights on the planning and design process for the new Diamond District in Richmond.

We would like to thank the following individuals for presenting in the Fall 2023 Sustainable Land Development seminar series:

- Michelle Amt, VMDO Architects
- Ralph Buehler, Virginia Tech
- Anamaria Bukvic, Virginia Tech
- Carol Considine, Old Dominion University
- Jennifer A. Dowdell, Biohabitats
- Jonah Fogel, University of Virginia
- Steve Hankey, Virginia Tech
- Michael Henly, Hourigan
- Jeremy Hoffman, Science Museum of Virginia
- Wyck Knox, VMDO Architects
- Bryan McKnight, Timmons Group
- Daniel McLaughlin, Virginia Tech
- Jessie Ponce de Leon, GordonDC

## Career Nights

Fall 2022 marked the “silver anniversary” for LDDI’s Career Night Mixer, as it was held for the 25th consecutive semester. The event, traditionally held on the eve or day of the Civil & Environmental Engineering Career Fair, also took place in February, and in doing so began the march toward 50 consecutive semesters! During the 2022-23 academic year, both the fall and spring mixers were held on campus at the Virginia Tech Graduate Life Center. The Career Night Mixer has long provided an opportunity for students to meet and mingle with prospective employers in a relaxed environment prior to the stressful and sometimes even chaotic atmosphere of the career fair. For LDDI sponsoring organizations, the event helps recruiters to identify and distinguish students interested in land development design from the larger pool of CEE students, many of whom wish to pursue different career paths.

**Diana Doan**, Employee Engagement Coordinator for LDDI Platinum sponsor McAdams, is an LDDI alumna who attended the mixer as a student and, now, as a recruiter for McAdams. Of the event, Diana offers, *“Each year, the LDDI Career Night Mixer gives both students and employers space to get to know each other in a relaxed, genuine environment - where nerves aren’t running high (yes, recruiters get nervous too!). By allowing casual conversations and a more personal connection to occur prior to the more formal interview and career fair, the overall process is far less intimidating. As a former LDDI student and attendee of this mixer, I can speak firsthand to this event being such a unique avenue for students to get their foot in the door with a potential employer. And to come full circle on the other side as an employer, it is energizing to meet these bright, talented individuals that have so much to offer to our industry.”*

This fall, look for a new twist on the Career Night Mixer. Seeking to “evolve with the times” and ensure that the event remains attractive to students, a planning committee comprised of professionals from LDDI sponsoring firms **Balzer & Associates**, **Foresight Design Services**, **Hurt & Proffitt**, and **TRC Companies** are exploring new ideas including the possible return to an outdoor venue. Members of LDDI sponsoring organizations are encouraged to keep watch for their invitation to attend the fall 2023 mixer.



Students and employers mingle at the Fall 2022 Career Night Mixer

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*“The LDDI program introduced me to an entire area of civil engineering that I didn’t know about going into college. Everything I learned in the introductory class was applicable to my land development internship. Being able to talk knowledgeably about key aspects of the industry led to said internship and eventually my full-time job! The senior design course provided a complete overview of a design project process which I believe will be invaluable as a young professional. I am so thankful I got to participate in the program as a student!”*

– **Kate Markell**, VT CEE Class of 2023, Incoming Analyst at Kimley-Horn



## SUSTAINABLE LAND DEVELOPMENT CLUB

Established in 2008, the Sustainable Land Development Club (SLDC) is the student “arm” of LDDI and enjoys a widely known and well-deserved reputation of being one of the most active student organizations in all of CEE. LDDI Coordinator Kevin Young has served as the club’s faculty advisor since its founding, and last year LDDI Assistant Coordinator Claire White joined Kevin as the club’s co-advisor. Since its inception, the SLDC has benefitted greatly from the vast LDDI network of professionals and their willingness to develop, support, and participate in a variety of club activities. The past academic year was another busy one for the SLDC and featured a fall semester Value Engineering Workshop, Young Professionals Panel, and on-campus exhibition by Advanced Drainage Systems. The spring semester found club members attending a Professional Development Workshop, an on-campus exhibition by Concrete Pipe & Precast, and an out-of-town field trip to Charlotte, NC, as well as competing in the annual Design Charrette and Competition. The SLDC continued its legacy of service this year when, in April, club members provided stakeout of Virginia Tech’s Relay For Life track for the tenth time.

During the 2022-23 academic year, **Ella Waide** served her second term as SLDC President. Of her experience leading the club over the past two years Ella offers, *“The SLDC was a wonderful part of my college career. It is a place for sustainability focused civil engineering students to come together and network with likeminded peers and industry professionals, and also give back to the community. This included everything from a club mixers, to young professionals panels, to staking out the Relay For Life track. I met some of my best friends and peers while leading this club, and it was a joy to find people who shared my passions. It also allowed for year-to-year interactions, one of which lead to finding our next president! I feel like I’m leaving the club in the capable hands of rising senior Liam Glennon, and I can’t wait to see what he does with the club next year.”*

The following section presents some of the SLDC events and activities over the past year, all of which contributed to fulfilling the mission of connecting industry professionals with LDDI students.

### Spring Field Trip to Charlotte

In March, LDDI Coordinator Kevin Young and Assistant Coordinator Claire White led a group of 18 undergraduate and graduate students on an out-of-town field trip to Charlotte, NC. This was the first out-of-town field trip sponsored by LDDI since 2019, the largest student group ever to participate, and the first time the field trip has been paired with an industry networking event. Upon arriving in Charlotte on Friday evening, students participated in an LDDI sponsored networking social with local LDDI firms at Protagonist Brewing.



Pearl Street Park

The group started early on Saturday morning with breakfast at McAdams’ new Lower South End (“LoSo”) office, then visited Pearl Street Park in downtown Charlotte. LDDI graduates, **Sam Montgomery**, **Carlos Guerrero**, **Brendan Kent**, and **Jackson Deweese**, along with landscape architect **Allie Bunker** from McAdams, discussed the historical significance of the Pearl Street Park, working with the community to develop a vision for the park, and also some of the challenges of designing around an existing stream.

The next stop was Varick on 7<sup>th</sup>, which is a transit orientated development apartments including approximately 50% affordable housing. **Brian Crutchfield** and **Allison Culicerto** with Timmons Group discussed the challenges of designing in an urban infill site as well as the differences between traditional zoning and transit orientated development zoning ordinance requirements.

Heading north to Davidson College in Davidson, NC, the students had the opportunity to meet with both the design engineers from Dewberry and the general contractor, Rodgers Builders, to walk through the active (and extremely muddy) construction site for the new football stadium. **Tristan McMannis** and **Paige West** discussed some of the challenges with erosion and sediment control design, coordination with Duke Energy power company, and utility design constraints. Students also got to see first hand how the engineers and contractors work together to solve problems during construction.

After a much needed lunch break, the group visited its

last stop in Mooresville, NC. This industrial site was by far the largest site of the day with three building pads up to one million square feet. The site tour was led by **Blake Day** and **Joey Racer** of Kimley-Horn as well as the general contractor, Evans General Contractors. Here, both the general contractor and engineers discussed earthwork and the importance of delivering the project on schedule. Joey, an LDDI graduate, shared, *"it was great to see the 'light bulbs' go off when we started in the trailer with the plans and then showing them the actual size of the building footprints on the site. Being able to see firsthand how a design comes to life is extremely valuable for their professional journeys. I am very thankful to be a part of the LDDI program, and I know these moments will last as their start their careers."*



Davidson College Football Stadium (bottom): Natalie Metz and Katya Howard at Varick on 7th (top)



Group Photo at Mooresville Industrial Site

The field trip, like those before it, proved to be immensely educational for the students. **Valeria Lebron**, Sustainable Land Development M.S. student, shared, *"being able to take part in this experience truly sets the Bowman Sustainable Land Development apart -- not many students receive the opportunity to network with industry professionals and see different projects in varying phases of the construction process during the school year. I especially appreciated interacting with engineers and project managers who worked directly on the projects we were touring and learning how different the design process is from actual construction and how contractors adapt to any issues that may arise during construction."*

Special thanks again to this year's hosts of the various local field trips and special thanks to Virginia Tech videographer Ray Meese, who produced [this video documenting the spring field trip](#) for VT News!

## Young Professionals Panels

For the fourth consecutive year, LDDI and the SLDC hosted the "Young Professionals Panel." For many graduates, the transition from college to the professional world represents an abrupt lifestyle change that can be challenging to navigate. For some students, questions and stress begin to emerge before they even graduate and accept a position.

- What will my first six months on the job be like?
- What about the first year?
- Would I thrive working for a small land development firm or a large, multi-discipline company with a national footprint?

Students are sometimes understandably overwhelmed by these questions and challenges, and with a panel comprised of graduates of the LDDI program, this event seeks to help current students benefit from the experience and advice of those who have gone before them. This year's panel included seven former students ranging in graduation dates from 2014 through 2022. Student feedback on the event remains overwhelmingly positive and, similarly, the former LDDI students serving as panelists greatly enjoy giving back and speaking with current students.

Additionally, keeping the event in a virtual format allows professionals from a variety of geographic locations to participate. **John Tedesco**, LDDI graduate and Project Manager at Kimley-Horn in McKinney, Texas, participated in the February panel. John offered, *"I was so excited to participate in the Young Professionals Panel as it is truly a fantastic opportunity for both LDDI students to ask questions and alumni to share their professional experiences. Even though I have been out of school for a few years, sharing my experience from over the years with working at Kimley-Horn gave me a perfect opportunity to reflect on the challenges I faced as I transitioned from college to professional life. It is the opportunities/events like this panel that make me so proud to be a alum of the VT and excited to continue supporting such an amazing program!"*

LDDI recognizes and thanks the following individuals for participating in the spring 2023 Young Professionals Panel:

- Lanna Clement, ATCS
- Alexa Devlin, Dewberry
- Matt Koop, Bohler
- Akul Mehra, Bohler
- Isabella Patrocino, McAdams
- Griffin Peters, Kimley-Horn
- John Tedesco, Kimley-Horn



## On-Campus Product Exhibitions

LDDI has long sought opportunities to get students out of the classroom and onto active jobsites to observe and gain an appreciation for the size and scale, installation, and maintenance responsibilities of the infrastructure that they will design throughout their careers. While field trips certainly serve as an effective means to achieving this educational goal, large class sections often make them logistically prohibitive. Likewise, group design projects and a myriad of other activities associated with college life place demands on students that often preclude "destination" field trips. During the 2018-19 academic year, LDDI, with the help of Dymond-level sponsors Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) and Concrete Pipe & Precast (CP&P), addressed these issues by "bringing the field trip to the students" in the form of on-campus product exhibitions. Following a brief interruption forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, these on-campus exhibitions have been held each of the previous two academic years.

In early November, ADS brought a truck loaded with its innovative stormwater management products onto the Virginia Tech Drillfield, providing a picturesque fall backdrop for the product exhibition. **David Camden**, an LDDI graduate and now Southwest Virginia Sales Engineer for ADS, said of the event, *"The on-campus product exhibition is our most sought-after opportunity given by the LDDI program sponsorship. Once students see in real life the products they have learned about, ideas and questions come out that otherwise would not in the classroom. The growing popularity and discussions had at this event each year are very promising for the future engineers coming out of this program! We can't wait for the next one!"*



ADS Regional Sales Engineer and LDDI alumnus David Camden speaks to students during the fall semester on-campus exhibition

On a sunny early spring day in April, CP&P set up two flatbed trucks between Goodwin Hall and the Perry Street Parking Garage with a variety of storm and sanitary infrastructure products that students studied, photographed, asked questions, and learned about. CP&P Technical Marketing Manager **Hank Gottschalk** offered, *"Thank you to all of the Virginia Tech LDDI students that joined us during our on-campus product demonstration in April. The CP&P team had a great afternoon getting to talk about the various precast products we can provide and giving students a "hands on" view of what they may be specifying on their future projects."*



Students visit CP&P on-campus demo and submit "selfies" for extra credit in LDDI courses

LDDI thanks ADS and CP&P for giving so generously of the time of their salespeople, engineers, and truck drivers to support LDDI's educational goals and objectives.

## Design Charette

In April, LDDI hosted its annual Design Charrette and Competition, an event that made its debut in 2013. The charrette was again organized and led by Dewberry's **Skip Notte** and **Paige West** and featured nearly 20 student participants representing five different teams. The event began with each team receiving a full-size plan sheet that showed a proposed development property along with its topographic and planimetric features. Next, Paige and Skip acquainted student teams with the site, the development objective, and the unique caveats and challenges present on the site. Following the introduction, student teams were given one hour to develop a layout that met the development objective while also adhering to relevant codes and sound engineering design principles. Students completed their designs working entirely "by hand," and entered the competition equipped only with colored pencils or markers, an engineering scale, and a calculator. Dinner was provided to the student participants while their designs were judged by Skip, Assistant Professor of Practice Holly Casey, and **Trevor Kimzey** (Director of Engineering, Foresight Design Services). **Johanna Dobek**, VT CEE Class of 2022

was a member of the winning student team and offered of the event, *"The design charrette was a fun activity that allowed me and my fellow engineers to take on a real-world scenario. It allowed me to find my team's strengths in order to accomplish the task of laying out the given site. To future participants, my advice is play to everyone's strengths and have fun with your design!"*

The key goals of the Design Charrette and Competition are to encourage group collaboration among student teams and to create a supportive but competitive atmosphere where limited time forces students to work under pressure to prioritize site layout and other design decisions. The event also provides another opportunity for practitioner-student engagement as Skip, Paige, and event judges share their own insight and professional expertise on the project. First, second, and third place student teams received \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards, respectively. Of her involvement organizing and leading this year's charrette, Paige offered, *"The Spring 2023 Design Charette was an evening filled with questions, quick-moving pencils and scales, and unique designs for a subdivision by all teams. It is always interesting to see what the students design and to learn about their thought process. Each team did a great job and presented their ideas well. Here's to next year!"* LDDI thanks Skip and Paige for leading the charrette, and Trevor for serving as an event judge.



Dewberry's Paige West with the 2023 LDDI Design Charrette winning team of Kate Markell, Johanna Dobek, and Kate Richardson

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*"The LDDI program prepared me well for the professional world through applicable coursework and providing opportunities to meet, learn from, and interact with industry professionals from various disciplines and companies. Combined with the great network of Virginia Tech alumni, the LDDI program helped me advance my career through opportunities like networking events, career fairs, and other activities that helped me secure internships and full time employment. Additionally, I'm grateful for the relationships I've formed and friendships I've made with faculty and students in the program. Everyone is very welcoming and supportive. The LDDI program provided me with a diverse community of like-minded people all looking to achieve similar goals."*

– Nate Hammer, VT CEE Class of 2023



## J. Gilliland Leads Value Engineering and Professional Development Workshops

Late during the fall 2018 semester, the success and popularity of LDDI's annual Design Charrette and Competition served as a catalyst for **Jeff Gilliland** (J2 Engineers) to reach out to Kevin Young with an idea for another "hands-on" experiential learning activity for SLDC members. The inaugural event, which Jeff titled "A Practical Exercise in Value Engineering" was held during the spring 2019 semester and was attended by more than 20 students. Following an overview of the history, principles, and approach to value engineering, students broke up into 3-4 member teams to apply those principles on a public school site for which Jeff provided full-sized maps showing topographic and planimetric information. Students also were provided with "paper doll" cutouts of parking lots, athletic fields, and other proposed features that they used to develop conceptual layouts of the site. The student teams then presented the rationale behind their proposed layouts, opening themselves to feedback and critique from Jeff as well as their peers. The debut event proved to be a lot of fun and provided Jeff and Kevin with their own ideas and student feedback to improve the next workshop, which was held during the fall 2019 semester. The COVID-19 pandemic forced Virginia Tech to operate almost entirely virtually during the 2020-21 academic year, and as a result the new Value Engineering Workshop was placed on temporary hiatus. Since the university's return to in-person engagement, the workshop has reemerged as an annual fall semester SLDC event and was held early during the fall 2023 semester. Of the Value Engineering Workshop, Jeff offered, *"I enjoy watching the students apply what they have learned about value engineering in the group exercise at the end of the workshop. The students collaboratively develop a creative solution to a real-world, design challenge that is both functional and cost-effective."*

During the spring 2023 semester, Jeff continued his generous donation of personal time to members of the SLDC when he delivered an evening talk titled "A Roadmap for Success: Perspectives to Promote Personal and Professional Growth." Unlike SLDC events such as the Design Charrette and Value Engineering Workshop, this club meeting focused less on technical engineering subject matter and more on topics such as personal and professional growth and developing communication and people skills. While no one would argue that the focus of an accredited degree in civil engineering should focus heavily on technical subject matter, these often called "soft skills" are also of critical importance for the success of a young engineer. Jeff stated the following of his spring semester talk, *"With 'A Roadmap for Success,' I shared perspective and experience from my career in an industry that has experienced substantial change in just 3 to 4 decades. We talked about finding work-life harmony, building people skills, and creating an intentional plan for personal growth. Computers will continue to serve as powerful tools, but brain power remains in high demand as we continue to shape the built environment."*

We thank Jeff for organizing and leading these events, as well as for his vision and the unique way in which he consistently produces ideas for activities that complement and strengthen the broader LDDI program.



Jeff Gilliland reviews and discusses a conceptual site layout during the fall 2023 Value Engineering Workshop

## LDDI FACULTY AND STUDENT AWARDS

We would like to recognize the following LDDI faculty members and students for the recent awards and recognitions they have received.

- **Kevin D. Young, Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching**
- **Claire M. White, Promoted to Associate Professor of Practice**

- **Ella Waide, Hokie Stone Award**

LDDI students whose leadership, attitude, and personality elevate the performance of those around them

- **Korryn Pudleiner, Leadership in Sustainability**

Recognition of an LDDI student's commitment to sustainability as it relates to land development design

- **CEE 4274 Design Teams of the Year:**

Emmy Donlon, Ella Waide, Margaret Webb, and Nawras Zalzal (mentored by Pennoni)

Garrett Corker, Ryan Irvin, Malini Josiam, and Katelyn Tat (mentored by Bohler)

Outstanding design teams in the land development senior design course from the past academic year



Pennoni Design Team

- **Devan Eilbert and Nawras Zalzal, Professional Development Award**

Recognition of students' professional growth and development through the completion of their senior design project

- **Ava Charlton, Perseverance Award**

Inaugural award recognizing a student overcoming challenges and showing leadership in their senior design project

- **Gia Ha, Outstanding Graduate Student in Sustainable Land Development**

Recognition of a student's contributions to the Sustainable Land Development graduate program



Student Award Recipients

- **Nicole Fontenot, Valeria Lebron, and Josh Trump, LDDI GTA Recognition**

Each year, we acknowledge the GTAs who are such integral contributors to the success of the various LDDI courses. This year, we recognize and thank Nicole, Valeria, and Josh for serving as GTAs in CEE 3274, CEE 4264, and CEE 4274.

- **Emily Steele: William A. Joyner Scholarship**

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH LDDI

Since its inception, LDDI has embraced an organic model that relies on the “time, talent, and treasure” of industry professionals to achieve program goals. Over the past nearly two decades, LDDI has grown to become a nationally-recognized leader in undergraduate land development design education. In 2021, an affiliated master’s degree program made its debut and has experienced rapid growth over its first two years. The establishment of the Bowman Sustainable Land Development Program at Virginia Tech in 2022 marks an inflection point in the LDDI timeline, and there’s no better time to get involved with the program. There are nearly 800 individuals currently in the LDDI database/ mailing list. Being a member of this list keeps you up to date on LDDI events and student engagement opportunities both on and off campus. If you are not already on our email list, please reach out to us at [lddi@vt.edu](mailto:lddi@vt.edu) to be added. LDDI also has an active LinkedIn page and we encourage you to follow us there by searching “[LDDI at Virginia Tech](#)”.

There are many ways for individuals to become involved with LDDI, including joining the Industry Advisory and/or Young Members Groups. Each member of the Industry Advisory Group is assigned to one of the five committees described below. We encourage you to review the respective summaries of each committee to see what best aligns with your own interests and professional expertise. Each committee provides its own unique opportunities to become active in the program.

For organizations, LDDI offers four tiers of corporate sponsorship and two levels of municipal membership. Contact information to discuss sponsorship/membership opportunities is also provided.

### Practitioner/Technical and Research Committee

The Practitioner/Technical and Research Committee assists the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in providing a strong and sustainable land development design undergraduate and graduate curriculum. The committee is also a resource for research endeavors aligned with the sustainable land development graduate program. This committee identifies opportunities for practitioner involvement both inside and outside of the classroom.

### Special Events and Fundraising Committee

The Special Events and Fundraising Committee is responsible for organizing fundraising events that include the annual golf tournament as well as splash events to roll out new programs or initiatives. This committee is also involved with the annual corporate sponsorship drive, annual VT Giving Day, and organizing practitioner recognition events.

### Membership Committee

The Membership Committee provides assistance with planning and organizing LDDI’s General Meetings. The committee also assists with recruiting new members to the LDDI network as well as regularly reviewing corporate sponsorship and municipal membership benefits.

### Brand Awareness Committee

The Brand Awareness Committee is responsible for expanding the footprint of LDDI through outreach events (“Road Shows”) in new geographic markets, and for overseeing LDDI’s social media presence and website. This committee has also recently worked on updates to the LDDI name and logo.

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee

The DEIB Committee works within the LDDI organizational framework to expand diversity within the LDDI community and to foster a culture of inclusiveness in an effort to more closely align with and support the goals of the Virginia Tech College of Engineering and the Via Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

## Young Members Group

The new LDDI organizational model provides numerous opportunities for alumni of the program to become involved! The Young Members Group is intended for recent graduates (generally one to seven years post graduation) and provides a forum for them to collaborate and reconnect with their peers. Young Members are assigned to participate in one of the IAG committees describe above.

## Corporate Sponsorship, Municipal Membership, and Individual Giving

Last year, LDDI enjoyed the support of 47 corporate sponsors and municipal members, and nearly 100 individual donors. There are four levels of annual corporate sponsorship which afford varying levels of student access and interaction. Two levels of membership are offered for municipalities and other government agencies. For more information, please contact Kevin Young, Claire White, or visit the LDDI website at <http://www.lddi.coe.vt.edu>.

*For more information on how to get involved with LDDI, please contact:*

Kevin D. Young, PE, ENV SP, M. ASCE  
VT LDDI Coordinator  
(540) 231-2474  
keyoung@vt.edu

Claire M. White, PE, ENV SP  
VT LDDI Assistant Coordinator  
(540) 231-3934  
cmwhite@vt.edu

Alisa S. T. Cowen, LA, AICP  
LDDI Executive Board Chair  
(703) 528-4424  
acowen@cowendesigngroup.com

J. I. (Jack) Vega, PE  
LDDI Executive Board Vice Chair  
(703) 563-5320  
jvega@claudemoore.org

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*"The LDDI program has been an integral part of my college education. Through this program, I have been able to receive real-world exposure to land development. Several of the guest speakers have provided very useful information regarding their profession. I have been able to make connections with people with whom I can see myself working for in the future. I am currently interning for a land development firm where I have put many things that I've learned through the LDDI program to use. I am extremely grateful for the LDDI program and the opportunities that it has provided for me. I believe that this program is setting me and many other students up very well for careers after college."*

– Hugh Green, VT CEE Class of 2024

## RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS AND DONORS

### Dymond Level

#### ADS

From its introduction and championing of corrugated plastic drainage pipe in the United States more than fifty years ago, to its current line of innovative products, Advanced Drainage Systems (ADS) has been a leading materials supplier for the land development industry. The company's commitment to excellence and sustainability have been long recognized, including this year by Plastic News annual rankings, where ADS was confirmed the number one plastic recycling company in North America. In fact, more than half of the plastic ADS purchased to make drainage products in 2022 was recycled, made possible by the company's pioneering plastic-blending program, company-owned and operated recycling facilities, and unmatched engineering expertise. In 2020, ADS also consumed 28% of all high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles in the entire country. HDPE is used to make plastic bottles for products such as laundry detergent, milk and shampoo. Since coming on board as a Dymond-level sponsor in 2018, ADS has been actively involved with LDDI both inside and outside of the classroom. The past academic year was no exception, and featured Regional Engineer **Greg Moore** presenting to students in LDDI's senior design course. The company was also involved with LDDI outside of the classroom, with Sales Engineer **David Camden** leading the ADS on campus product exhibition.



#### ARCO Design/ Build

ARCO Design/Build is a leader in the industrial construction industry with hundreds of design-build contractors nationwide, and construction offices in all major markets across the United States. ARCO Design/Build delivers the strength, resources and construction expertise of an award-winning national design-build construction company, combined with the responsive personalized customer service you'd expect from a local construction firm.



Engineering News-Record (ENR) ranks ARCO Design/Build as the #1 domestic builder of Distribution Centers and Warehouses in the United States and the company embraces a guiding philosophy that they aren't just a vendor, but a dedicated partner committed to their clients' success. The company currently has 18 locations and hopes to leverage their involvement with LDDI to recruit the workforce needed to continue growing.

ARCO Design/Build joined the LDDI sponsorship family in 2022, coming on board at the Dymond level. During their first year as sponsors, ARCO Design/Build got acquainted with the program and Virginia Tech CEE students by attending the fall and spring semester Career Night Mixers, as well as the networking happy hour in Charlotte in April. During the spring semester, Design/Build Manager **Gary Zurawski** "shadowed" an experienced mentoring team in CEE 4274/5274. This experience puts ARCO Design/Build in a position to serve as lead student mentors in the course during the 2023-24 academic year.



## Bohler

With more than 30 locations from New England to Texas – including its newest office in Nashville, TN – Bohler’s team of driven professionals provides site civil engineering design,

# BOHLER //

permitting, and land development consulting services to owners and developers across all commercial, industrial, and residential real estate sectors. Bohler consistently partners with clients to create opportunities for high-profile projects, such as the Eli Lilly and Company life science expansion in Research Triangle Park, Raleigh, NC. In addition, Bohler has completed more than 12 million SF of data center work in the last three years including several marquee projects within Loudoun County, VA’s “Data Center Alley.”

Bohler has been a sponsor of LDDI since 2007, and the company provided mentors for both the fall 2022 and spring 2023 offerings of LDDI’s senior design course. Representatives from the company also frequently visit campus to attend events, including LDDI Career Night Mixers, the CEE Career Fair, and a Bohler-sponsored mixer. Additionally, Bohler staff participated in the Industry Professionals and Young Professionals Panels.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Bohler hired nine full-time graduates and fourteen interns from the LDDI program. **Julia Williamson**, a 2022 graduate of the program, shared, *“The LDDI program at VT offered incredible insight as to what I could expect to do on a daily basis at a site design company. The program allowed for me to not only walk through a projects lifecycle but to also interact with professionals and gain a better sense of the industry.”*

## Bowman

Headquartered in Reston, VA, Bowman Consulting Group Ltd (Bowman) is an established professional services firm delivering innovative engineering solutions to customers who own, develop, and maintain the built environment. With over 1,700 employees and more than 75 offices throughout the United States, including eight offices in Virginia with 340+ employees, Bowman provides a variety of planning, engineering, construction management, commissioning, environmental consulting, geospatial, survey, land procurement and other technical services to customers operating in a diverse set of regulated end markets.

# Bowman

On May 11, 2021, Bowman completed its \$51.7 million initial public offering and began trading on the Nasdaq under the symbol BWMN. Since then, Bowman has acquired 22 firms and plans to continue looking for strategic opportunities. In 2023, the company moved into the Zweig Group’s Top Ten on the Hot Firm List – ranked #9. For Engineering News Record’s 2023 Top Design Firms Bowman moved up to #87 (from #118) and is ranked #69 on ENR’s Top Pure Designers list. In 2023, the Washington Business Journal also ranked Bowman as #5 for Largest Landscape Architecture Firms in Greater Washington.

Bowman has been a sponsor of LDDI since 2007, with Principal Bill Pyle currently serving on the LDDI Industry Advisory Group. Firm President **Gary Bowman** has been one of LDDI’s strongest advocates since the program’s infancy. In 2023, he committed \$5 million to the Charles E. Via, Jr. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to expand learning initiatives in sustainable land development. Of his gift and involvement with LDDI, Gary offers, *“I played a relatively small role in getting LDDI up and running,” “Many others have put much more time and energy into it than I have. However, together our support over the years has resulted in something that is quite special and unique. It provides direction and education to students that they cannot get anywhere else.”*

## Concrete Pipe and Precast

An LDDI sponsor since 2018, Concrete Pipe & Precast, LLC (CP&P) is a leading manufacturer and supplier of concrete pipe and precast products in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. CP&P focuses on delivering value through innovative products and committed partnerships. This commitment extends to its valuable partnerships with designers, developers, inspectors, and owners, and CP&P recognizes the value that the LDDI program serves to those numerous partners. **Hank Gottschalk**, CP&P's Technical Marketing Manager, says, *"We feel that it is important to spend time discussing material, design, and installation of our products. It is critical that each and every stakeholder understands the importance that our buried infrastructure plays in our daily lives. We take these things for granted every day, until something doesn't work. Dialog and understanding of everyone's role in providing that the right product is properly installed for each location will help to ensure that we obtain a system that will last for generations."*



With 13 individual manufacturing locations and over 700 employees, CP&P is positioned to serve and partner with the purpose of providing "Concrete Solutions" throughout the East Coast.

## Edens

Edens Investments, founded in 2021, is a privately owned real estate investment, acquisition, and development company headquartered in Durham, NC. The professionals at Edens are committed to delivering a high-quality work product while providing exceptional service. Edens focuses on single-family, multi-family and commercial investment opportunities, with an emphasis on self-sustaining communities. Company president Jarrod Edens is a huge supporter of youth sports and Hokie athletics, and in June, Edens Investments sponsored the first annual Edens Invitational youth football and cheer camp in Kingsport, the event featuring Hokie legend DeAngelo Hall.



2022 year marked the company's fifth year as an LDDI sponsor, coming on board initially as Edens Land, a more traditional civil engineering company. Firm president and proud Hokie alumnus **Jarrod Edens** has served as a mentor in LDDI's senior design course five time and his student mentees have previously been invited to present at LDDI general meetings. In 2022, Kingsport, TN was honored with the Donald E. Hunter Excellence Award for the city's Brickyard Park/Cement Hill project. Last year, the project was recognized as the top overall project by the National Land Planning Association. Edens was a key player in the project, and during the fall 2023 semester Jarrod will host CEE 4274/5274 students on site visits to attend construction meetings and participate in inspection activities.

## Pennoni

Pennoni is a multidisciplinary design firm, providing a full suite of civil engineering, environmental, and geospatial services. The company's capabilities are ever-expanding with growing business demands, tech innovations, and the creative influence of a new generation. Pennoni's services cover both traditional markets as well as emerging sectors such as sustainability and resiliency, energy, and design-build.



Pennoni's offices are strategically located to best serve their growing list of clients with more than 1,200 professionals in 40+ offices. In the past year, Pennoni has worked on a variety of project types and sizes including an off-shore wind farm, numerous K-12 public schools, cannabis agricultural facilities, data centers and recreation complexes.

Pennoni continued its active support of LDDI over the past year with multiple alumni serving on the LDDI committees as members, delivering multiple guest lectures to LDDI courses, and serving as mentors for the CEE 4274 design course. Pennoni values the knowledge of LDDI students and has hired several recent graduates and interns knowing their contributions and enthusiasm strengthen their design teams. 2021 LDDI graduate **Jean-Luc Arches** shared, *"I believe that LDDI sets the standard for what a civil engineering design course should be. The best part about the course is seeing the results of your work and the work of others. You get to see how others tackle a design challenge, what went wrong and how you could improve. That process of visual concept to actual design through various challenges and direct guidance is incredible. I appreciate the continued contribution and commitment from all who are involved with the LDDI program, and it is my hope that students who even have a slight interest in land development may partake in this program."*

## VHB

With more than 1,800 employees across 30 offices, VHB's work helps improve mobility, enhance communities, build resilience, and contribute to economic vitality. VHB's passionate professionals include engineers, scientists, planners, and designers who partner with clients in the institutional, transportation, real estate, and energy industries, as well as federal, state, and local governments. VHB's land development teams work on a variety of project types with sustainability being an integral part of the approach and solution for addressing social, environmental, and economic issues.



Some of VHB's notable land development projects include Virginia Tech's New School of Business and the Green Links that will provide ADA accessibility throughout campus, the expansion of the Blacksburg Transit headquarters, the replacement of the existing General Assembly Building and design of pedestrian tunnels for secure ADA accessibility to the State Capitol building in Richmond, the first sustainable eco-district in Virginia called GreenCity, and the Science Museum of Virginia's new open green park that replaces the surface lot with an associated parking garage. Additionally, VHB has been ranked by national design associations and magazines, including ranking 58<sup>th</sup> on ENR's Top Design Firms list, 41<sup>st</sup> on the Top 100 Pure Designers List, and one of Virginia Business Magazine's Best Place to Work in Virginia for seven years in a row.

VHB is proud to continue their unwavering support of LDDI and has multiple team members who graduated from and are currently involved with LDDI, including **Tim Smith**, a Project Manager, who offers, *"I'm a 2010 graduate of the LDDI program. My mentors really challenged me with real-life engineering issues and coached me through developing sustainable and practical solutions for them. Through hands-on experiences, collaborative projects, and mentorship from industry experts, I gained a deep appreciation for the intricate balance between community needs and environmental stewardship."*

## Platinum Level

### ATCS

ATCS is a professional consulting firm dedicated to providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary services including land development, transportation planning and design, traffic engineering, construction management and inspection, surveying, and other civil and environmental engineering services.

Headquartered in Herndon, VA, the firm has ten offices across Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. ATCS was recognized as one of the top places to work in 2022 by The Washington Post.

# ATCS

ATCS has maintained an active role in the LDDI program since first coming on board in 2016 as a Platinum sponsor. 1997 Virginia Tech CEE alumnus **Caleb Hurst** joined ATCS in 2022 as a Senior Civil Manager and mentored an LDDI student team during the Spring 2023 semester of CEE 4274. Caleb says, *"we always enjoy mentoring the next generation of civil engineers and sharing actual examples of how to apply what the students are learning in class to the real world. The students ask great questions that demonstrate an understanding of land development principles. The LDDI program provides a unique collaboration between the classroom and consulting."*

### christopher consultants, now IMEG

IMEG is a leading U.S.-based engineering, planning, & consulting firm that delivers a rare combination — the broad expertise of a national leader with the personal relationships and deep collaboration of a local firm. IMEG is employee-owned and results-driven, with a passion for transforming environments and communities through high-performance design and infrastructure. With more than 80 U.S. offices and 2,400 team members, the firm serves regions and markets with full-service, in-house engineering design & consulting services.



In the greater Virginia region, IMEG (formerly christopher consultants), has a robust staff of 160 full-time employees, of which 14 are Virginia Tech alumni, in seven office locations across Virginia and Maryland. From there, IMEG provides a full range of services including civil engineering, structural engineering, surveying, planning, and landscape architecture. The firm welcomed nine interns to these local offices in the summer of 2023.

In 2023, IMEG (formerly christopher consultants) was once again named to Washington Business Journal's list of Largest Engineering Firms in Greater DC, coming in at #13 of 30 firms. In addition to its involvement at Virginia Tech, IMEG is also engaging local high school students through presentations, demonstrations, and the continuation of the company's scholarship program. These scholarship applicants this year were impressive, and two finalists received scholarships. IMEG looks forward to seeing the impact these young people will make as they enter college and the industry.

The firm has been a proud sponsor of LDDI since 2007. Staff members regularly mentor the senior design course and attend the LDDI Career Night Mixer and the CEE Career Fair. Civil Engineering Graduate **Justin Wingenfield** says, *"The LDDI program is a great way for students to experience the land development industry while still in school. The program and senior design course were invaluable experiences in getting my land development career started. As a first-time mentor, it was a privilege to see the amount of growth and development the students made throughout the semester."*



## Dewberry

Established in 1956 and headquartered in Fairfax, VA, Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing multidisciplinary professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Engineering News-Record ranked Dewberry as the #34 Top Design Firm in the United States.



# Dewberry®

In the Commonwealth, the Virginia Chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) continues to recognize Dewberry for its contributions to our industry, such as the honor award for the Virginia Beach Comprehensive Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding Analysis and Planning for Virginia Beach. While across the nation, Dewberry is also commended for helping communities improve, such as Designer of the Year from the Society of American Military Engineers New York Post for the New York City Subway and commuter rail stations upgrades and ADA accessibility projects, and the innovative granular activated carbon treatment system for the Town of Superior, CO, for which Dewberry won the Project of the Year Award by American Public Works Association Colorado Chapter.

Dewberry has been a proud sponsor of LDDI since 2007, hiring 30 interns and 15 entry-level graduates in the past year. Throughout the company's time as a sponsor, Dewberry has been involved in nearly every aspect of LDDI. A graduate engineer in Dewberry's Charlotte office and former LDDI student **Maya Pighet** says, *"The LDDI Program at Virginia Tech gave me a glimpse of what is expected after graduation from professionals in the land development industry. As the program focuses heavily on the land development discipline, I was able to see how a project can integrate numerous civil and environmental disciplines to achieve the end result. This is ultimately what led me to pursue a career in the industry. The knowledge and skills acquired from the LDDI program and land development courses has prepared me tremendously to successfully kick start my career in the field."*

## Gordon

Founded in 1976, Gordon is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary design firm specializing in urban design, mixed-use, commercial, mission critical, and government facility development. The firm serves local and federal government clients as well as private developers in the Washington D.C. Metro region and nationally across 31 states. Providing its clients with a full complement of civil engineers, land planners, landscape architects, surveyors, and security professionals, in February, the firm was recognized as #17 on the Washington Business Journal's ranking of the largest engineering firms in Greater DC. Proudly employing more than 25 Virginia Tech alumni, Gordon has been a sponsor of LDDI since 2007.



# Gordon

Gordon participates in numerous LDDI functions, including CEE 4274 mentoring, CEE 3274 mentoring and class presentations, SLDC meetings, and networking mixers. This breadth of involvement grants the firm front-line access to LDDI students, and in 2022 the firm hired four full-time graduates of the program and three summer interns. This year, the firm will also welcome two additional LDDI full-time hires and three interns.

**Gwen Imeson, Class of 2016, shared** *"The LDDI program at Virginia Tech provides a unique opportunity to gain industry experience as a student, but that experience extends far beyond the field of land development. The Land Development Design Course CEE 4274 was one of my favorite classes because it challenged me to sharpen my problem solving, creative, and collaboration skills. As a student I was overwhelmed by the diverse career paths I could take following graduation. I believe LDDI set me up for success when I entered the workforce as an airfield engineer in the private sector, then as project manager in the public sector, and I believe it was also the solid foundation provided by LDDI that ultimately allowed me to transition back into this field. Thank you, LDDI!"*

## J2 Engineers

J2 Engineers, Inc. (J2) is dedicated to serving as a strategic partner to its clients, delivering exceptional services, and making a meaningful difference in people's lives. Founded in 2007, the firm has been committed to cultivating a lasting future for its clients, co-workers, partners, and communities through excellence in engineering, landscape architecture, and land surveying. For the past six consecutive years, J2 has been recognized as one of Zweig Group's Best Firms to Work For and Hot Firms. The firm's project portfolio features private development, public facilities, and significant transportation improvements. A few signature projects from the past year include design and ongoing construction of the new Loudoun County Public Schools Watson Mountain Middle School to serve the growing community; design and construction of two light industrial buildings part of Quantico Corporate Center strategically located along the I-95 corridor in Stafford, VA; and construction of Northstar Boulevard Phase II, a regionally significant roadway project in Loudoun County, VA.



J2 has been a dedicated LDDI sponsor since 2007 and remains active through class presentations, mentoring senior design project teams, attending LDDI Career Nights, and organizing the annual golf tournament. This active participation positions yearly hires for the firm, including two recent intern positions with students from the LDDI program.

**Mohammed Abdalhamid**, CEE Class of 2016, shared, *"during my time at Virginia Tech, the LDDI program proved to be incredibly valuable to me. Out of all the courses I took, the Land Development design class had the greatest impact. It provided me with a deeper understanding of Land Development as a career path and helped me recognize the various design challenges I would encounter in my professional journey. I also appreciated the LDDI Career Mixer, which allowed me to connect with potential employers before career fairs and helped break the ice in a fun and engaging environment."*

## Kimley-Horn

Kimley-Horn is one of the nation's premier planning and design consulting firms. With more than 7,000 employees in 110+ offices across the United States, the firm offers full services in a wide range of disciplines. The firm has been repeatedly included on Fortune's 100 Best Companies to Work For list, and in 2023, Engineering News-Record ranked Kimley-Horn as a top 10 U.S. Design Firm out of 500 firms nationwide. Kimley-Horn's portfolio includes serving both public infrastructure and private development with a full suite of civil engineering, planning, and landscape architecture services. Recent signature projects include the civil and structural design engineering services for the 1.8-million-square-foot Mercedes-Benz Stadium, which is home to the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United FC. The firm also contributed to the design of a massive solar project, the 500 MW Highlander Solar Energy Center, which is the largest in Virginia and one of the largest in the country, as well as provided traffic engineering and creative design solutions for the 44-acre Portsmouth Casino.



Kimley-Horn has been a proud sponsor of LDDI since 2007. As of June 2023, Kimley-Horn employs 163 Virginia Tech alumni, approximately 75 of whom participated in the LDDI program. These alumni embrace Virginia Tech's motto "Ut Prosim", participating in the LDDI Career Night, attending student club events, mentoring the senior design course, and serving on the LDDI Industry Advisory Group. Former LDDI student and class of 2020 graduate **Allie Zuras** shared, *"the LDDI senior design course in particular stands out from my time at Virginia Tech as it provided real life experience and mentorship working with a design team and partners in the industry. I learned fundamental design skills that allowed me to hit the ground running. I recently had a full circle moment where I had the opportunity to mentor a group this past fall for the design class - it has been amazing to stay connected and get to know the next wave of college grads entering the industry!"*

## Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams

Named a 2023 Top Workplace by the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams, Inc. (KBJW) is a fun, family-oriented business, dedicated to the success of their employees, clients, and communities. For more than 30 years, KBJW has served as a leading civil engineering, environmental, geotechnical, and survey firm in the Mid-Atlantic Region. As engineering experts, KBJW's team of engineers, geologists, scientists, surveyors, and project managers share a passion and commitment for providing excellence in all that they do. With more than 140 employees in five locations, KBJW provides an excellent opportunity for internships, as well as fulfilling careers.



KBJW employees are committed and involved with the education of young engineers in civil engineering, having been actively involved with the Virginia Tech LDDI program since its inception. **Cameron Palmore**, KBJW's Director of Housing and Education and Virginia Tech alumnus, currently serves as a mentor in the senior design course and is a member of the LDDI Industry Advisory Group.

In the past year two years, eight young professionals in the LDDI program have joined KBJW's team for summer internships, resulting in three full-time hires upon graduation. **Travis Miller**, 2023 LDDI program graduate, started his journey with KBJW as a summer intern in 2022 and was offered a full-time staff engineer position before returning to Virginia Tech for his senior year. *"At KBJW you are hands on from day one, and I spent the summer working on projects with experienced PE's and interacting with government officials,"* explained Travis. As far as advice for current LDDI program participants, he shares, *"there's so much cross-over in what you learn both in the program, as well as through the internship. I took what I learned during my internship and applied it to school, and now I'm taking what I learned through the LDDI program and am applying it in my career."*

## Land Design Consultants

Land Design Consultants (LDC) has established itself as a reliable and trusted partner in land development community since 1985. With a focus on land planning, land development engineering, and land surveying, LDC has extensive experience in the Washington, D.C. region. LDC prides itself on exceeding clients' expectations and maintaining a strong commitment to core values such as empathy, integrity, passion, innovation, and client success.



LDC has recently continued its partnership with Stanley Martin Home on the Innovation Town Center project. Located adjacent to George Mason University, this mixed-use destination will feature various amenities and provide in excess of 1,000 homes when complete. LDC has already gained approval for three of its construction plans, including the first phase of the Town Center which includes a Central Plaza, two roundabouts, and extensive utility and roadway infrastructure. Construction on the initial residential sections, comprising over four hundred homes, is scheduled to begin this summer.

In addition to the Innovation Town Center, LDC has been actively involved in the creation of numerous other communities throughout the region. Park East, a collaboration with Pulte Homes, aims to develop over three hundred homes and an outdoor amphitheater in Fairfax County. LDC has also submitted construction plans for the Flats at Tysons project, which, upon completion, will provide nearly ninety homes, structured parking, and convenient access to the Metro.

LDC is proud to support LDDI and holds Virginia Tech in the highest regard. The company believes LDDI prepares students for greater professional success than any other university in the country.

## LandDesign

LandDesign is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary firm offering planning, urban design, landscape architecture, and civil engineering services. Their organization of over 270 professionals is located across the nation, with offices in Charlotte, NC; Washington DC; Dallas, TX; Orlando, FL; and Boulder, CO. LandDesign believes that every project, site, and client present a unique set of circumstances through which they have a responsibility to create value for their clients and a place that matters for the community. Their commitment to implementable plans and designs is a hallmark of their services and a reflection of the uncommon collaboration that happens between their design and engineering teams.



LandDesign's diverse portfolio of public and private land development projects spans the globe with experience in nine markets, including large-scale master planned communities, urban mixed use development and public infrastructure improvement projects. Some notable projects include National Harbor in the Washington DC Metro Area: a project that transformed the Potomac Riverfront between Alexandria, VA and Maryland. Another is the River District in Charlotte, NC: a new community that aims to set the standard for living in nature, while having access to urban amenities. Lastly is Duke University's Kunshan Campus, where the public plaza spaces were designed to flood during China's wet season.

LandDesign joined LDDI as a platinum sponsor in 2022, and has hired numerous Virginia Tech graduates and interns over the years.

**Philip Smith**, class of 2016, recognizes the impact of the LDDI program on his career and served as a design mentor this past spring. He shares, *"through our partnership with LDDI I was able to share my experience and knowledge and help pave the way for the next class of Virginia Tech civil engineers, which was a rewarding experience. It was a pleasure to be able to work with our team, watch them exceed all expectations during the semester, and put together a great project and final presentation."*

## McAdams

McAdams is a full-service civil engineering, land planning, landscape architecture, and geomatics firm headquartered in Raleigh, North Carolina with offices in throughout North Carolina as well as Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Comprised of over 450 professionals, McAdams is passionate about providing unique and engaging experiences for our clients and our clients' clients. We understand the importance of a lasting impression and strive to bring life to the collective vision for project success. All design charts a path to the built environment which may create budgetary or constructability constraints, however our team works to blend creativity with reality which enables a concept to be executed. Our engineering expertise and other integrated services help provide efficient and effective solutions to serve your project needs.



2023 continues to be a year of achievement for the firm, having received Zweig Group's "Best Place to Work" and "Hot Firm" awards, as well as our notable listing in the ENR 500. McAdams, an LDDI sponsor since 2018, has been active in LDDI over the past year, serving as mentors in both the junior- and senior-level design courses as well as participating in the Young Professionals Panel. McAdams also participates on LDDI's Industry Advisory Group with **Diana Doan** serving as the vice chair for the Practitioner / Technical + Research Committee. McAdams currently employs over 25 Virginia Tech alumni, including several recent graduates from the LDDI program. One of those recent graduates, **Brendan Kent**, stated, *"After graduating from the LDDI program at Virginia Tech, I felt that I was prepared to begin my career within the field of land development. The professors gave valuable insight and real-world scenarios that allowed me to gain an understanding of the industry prior to entering the workforce. They also allowed for ample opportunities within the program to better your own career, whether it's through the career fairs, senior design course final presentations or field trips."*



## Sorba Engineering

Sorba Engineering (Sorba) is a certified woman-owned, small, and micro business providing civil engineering land development services to public and private organizations across all sectors. For over a decade, the Sorba team has proudly supported its clients on projects throughout the United States and abroad. Such projects include development of the Virginia Tech Innovation Campus, improvements to numerous historic buildings and museums in Washington, DC, and state-of-the-art designs for government facilities in support of our military and national security.



There are many facets to civil engineering and the diverse team of Sorba experts prides itself on providing technical design services in the areas of comprehensive site selection and design to include grading, drainage, stormwater management, low-impact design, and erosion and sediment control design; water, sanitary sewer, and dry utility design; water network modeling, earthwork analysis, hydraulic and hydrology studies; roadway, parking, pedestrian, and vehicular transportation improvements. The Sorba team is also experienced with the unique challenges and special requirements of development and rehabilitation projects within both historically significant and environmentally sensitive areas.

Sorba Engineering is excited to be part of the LDDI community and assist with the growth and development of tomorrow's civil engineers. We believe partnerships between industry and academia like the LDDI program are key to developing the creative, highly skilled workforce the industry requires. Sorba Engineering President and VT CEE Class of 2003, **Meredith McComas**, shared, *"though the LDDI program was in its infancy when I graduated from Virginia Tech, it made a huge impact on my preparedness for working in the civil engineering industry. I am proud to see how the program has expanded, both in terms of number of students and depth of classes offered. Graduates have a bright future before them, and I cannot wait to see how the seeds of innovation sowed during these classes come to fruition in the real world."*

## Timmons Group

When you change the Earth for a living like we do at Timmons Group, you have the opportunity to design with the Earth in mind. That attitude has helped us realize a variety of unique opportunities for our employees and clients, including one of our newest (and coolest) sustainability-centric developments — The 120-acre Plenty® vertical farming campus at Meadowville Technology Park in Chesterfield, Virginia. Plenty® and its partners will invest \$300M into the project to produce Driscoll's strawberries that are sustainably grown in a 'fraction of the footprint' of traditional farming. Timmons Group is providing civil engineering, landscape architecture, transportation services, construction administration, and underground utility survey for the campus.



Headquartered in Richmond, Timmons Group has 17 offices in the mid-Atlantic, southeast, and southwest and has been recognized for over 30 years as one of Engineering News Record's (ENR) Top 500 Design Firms. An LDDI sponsor since 2017, many LDDI graduates work at Timmons Group and regularly participate in student club events, senior design course mentoring, field trips, and the Career Night Mixer. **Genesis Wallace**, class of 2022, is a Project Engineer in the Virginia Beach office who enjoys the variety of projects that the firm offers and how these projects have given her the opportunity to grow professionally. *"A versatile and refreshing company, Timmons Group has granted me the opportunity to touch development projects of all kinds and train under seasoned and insightful designers. Of course, I can thank the LDDI program for equipping and acquainting me with many of the practices and skills that I now employ on each project. My time as an LDDI student was wholly invaluable to my current work,"* Genesis said.

## TRC Companies

TRC acquired Draper Aden Associates in 2022 to support the growth and development as a leader in Site Design and Infrastructure in the Mid-Atlantic region, and has continued DAA's active involvement with LDDI. TRC was founded in 1969 as a global consulting, engineering, and construction management firm



that provides technology-enabled solutions to the infrastructure, energy, and environmental markets. TRC provides a full range of services throughout the project life cycle— planning, designing, and building infrastructure for the communities in which we live and work. TRC is ranked #16 on ENR's list of Top 500 Design Firms and #9 Pure Design Firms in the United States.

One of TRC's signature projects, Blacksburg Transit Multi-modal Transit Facility (MMTF), is currently under construction on Virginia Tech's campus. This new \$36 million transportation facility, a partnership project between the Town of Blacksburg, VT, and Blacksburg Transit, will serve as the hub for buses, bikes and scooters coming to Virginia Tech's campus. TRC services included comprehensive floodplain analysis and the design of utility extensions/relocations, proposed grading, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management infrastructure, site survey and other site improvements to support the construction of the MMTF and related road and intersection improvements. This facility benefits the community by reducing bus traffic on the Drillfield and making it safer for pedestrians and bicyclists on campus.

TRC employs several CEE alumni including **Tyler Kaplan**, Class of 2020. He shares, *"as a graduate of the LDDI program, it is great to continue to be involved and witness its growth. The LDDI Golf Tournament, among other events, is a personal highlight of my year, especially since the TRC team emerged as the first-place winner in last year's edition. It is also a pleasure to hear from students about various design projects and witness firsthand the quality of students preparing to enter the Land Development Industry."*

## Tri-Tek

Since 1988, Tri-Tek Engineering's core value, "Doing things according to plan" has been the foundation of the firm's commitment to client service, creative design, and professional integrity. Headquartered in Herndon, VA and founded by Virginia Tech alumni **Kevin Murray** and **Ted Britt**, Tri-Tek is staffed with a passionate and dedicated team providing a wide array of civil, surveying, and environmental engineering services for both public and private clients.



Tri-Tek continues to support unique custom-built residences throughout the Great Falls and McLean area. Currently under construction, off Georgetown Pike just east of the village of Great Falls is the "Falls Farm" project, which is a two phased residential estate community consisting of 14 lots roughly 2 acres each. Stormwater for the project will include underground detention and infiltration facilities. The project also includes an extensive tree save area, challenging topographic conditions, onsite wetlands, and a stream crossing a stream that conveys 20 plus acres of drainage.

In the commercial/industrial sector, Tri-Tek is currently working on the expansion of the 18-acre Centreville Square Shopping Center in Fairfax County at the southwest corner of the Route 28 and Route 29 interchange. This project entails the modification of existing infrastructure, site improvements, and buildings to accommodate a new Lidl grocery store and a Dog Stop dog daycare facility.

Tri-Tek Engineering has been an LDDI sponsor since 2011 and routinely serves as mentors to LDDI's senior design course. Additionally, representatives from the firm are regular attendees at the LDDI Career Night and the CEE Career Fair. Former LDDI student **Casey Britt** commented, *"LDDI continues to provide me with extensive opportunities to not only better myself, but also to promote my confidence as an engineer and a professional. The connections that I have formed with my former classmates and industry professionals has allowed me to learn so much, and has propelled my career at Tri-Tek Engineering further than I could have imagined."*

## Townes Site Engineering

For over 40 years, Townes Site Engineering has provided multidisciplinary engineering services including civil engineering, land planning, surveying, environmental, and geotechnical services to the Mid-Atlantic region. Headquartered in Midlothian, Virginia just outside of the City of Richmond, the firm's project portfolio includes residential, commercial, and industrial development projects.



In the past year, Townes Site Engineering celebrated the "topping out" of two Data Centers in Henrico County for QTS Data Centers. This project is part of a massive data center development that is helping build Henrico County into the premier East Coast Data Center Hub. Townes provided full master planning, land development design, environmental permitting, surveying, and geotechnical services for the over 400 acre campus.

Townes also handled design and permitting of Metropolis at Innsbrook, a mixed-use development in Henrico County consisting of 700 apartments, retail, and office space. Townes involvement began with the rezoning process, into full civil design, environmental permitting, and through construction with Geotechnical material testing and inspections. Once completed Metropolis will be the largest apartment community in Henrico County and the first urban-style mixed use development in Innsbrook.

**Zackary Wilkins**, Vice President at Townes Site Engineering, is an alumnus of Virginia Tech's civil engineering department and LDDI. *"For 2023 we are excited to continue our involvement in the LDDI program. When I graduated in 2008, there were only two LDDI courses offered, but they helped me hit the ground running in a career in land development. It's exciting to see the amount of growth in the program and witness firsthand how prepared LDDI graduates are to contribute upon graduation. We look forward to increasing Townes' involvement in the coming year!"*

## WithersRavenel

WithersRavenel is the largest employee-owned, multi-disciplinary design firm located solely in North Carolina, specializing in the planning, design, and construction of public and private projects. The firm offers expertise in environmental engineering, geomatics, land development and planning, landscape architecture, construction administration, stormwater, utilities, transportation, and funding and asset management.



One of our recent signature projects is Downtown Cary Park. WithersRavenel is providing civil engineering, surveying, and stormwater management design for the 14-acre urban park set to position Cary as a leader in urban vitalization in central North Carolina. The stormwater design leans on an innovative treatment and permitting strategy using green infrastructure. Specifically, the park employs a re-circulation pump and filtration system to continuously feed associated water features in the park, including a one-acre centerpiece amenity. Downtown Cary Park will open later this year.

WithersRavenel joined LDDI as a Platinum sponsor in 2018, and has hired two Virginia Tech graduates in 2022-23 while welcoming two interns. The company is active in the LDDI program through participation in multiple career events, along with mentoring the senior design course. **Ben Troise**, Class of 2021, discusses the impact of Virginia Tech and the LDDI program on his career and job at WithersRavenel: *"My Virginia Tech education has been essential to my success. My classes taught me the importance of knowing how to learn as well as how to find information - key strengths in a detail-oriented field where the answer is not always right in front of you. Also, the LDDI program offered real-world work experiences to apply and develop many of the skills I had learned, which I feel gave me a leg up over other new grads entering the professional world."*

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