

# Building Leaders for Advancing Science and Technology

*Have a BLAST at the University of Virginia OR Virginia Tech in 2014!*



The **Building Leaders for Advancing Science and Technology (BLAST)** program will offer an exciting, on-campus, summer experience designed to increase student interest and curiosity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). BLAST will provide a residential opportunity to current 8th and 9th grade students in the summer of 2014 **at no cost** to selected students. Faculty members will lead hands-on activities and demonstrations that will seek to motivate and inspire students for STEM studies and careers. The program is a partnership between the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[www.blast.spacegrant.org](http://www.blast.spacegrant.org)

**Application deadline: February 1, 2014**

## GOALS

- ◆ Provide an on-campus residential experience for students who are motivated to learn but may not have shown STEM interest.
- ◆ Spark student interest in STEM coursework by providing hands-on activities and demonstrations.
- ◆ Increase the number of high school graduates who pursue STEM careers.
- ◆ Demonstrate engineering principles and design; illustrate how technology supports scientific discovery and how mathematics is the common language between them.
- ◆ Encourage critical and creative thinking and problem solving.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ◆ High school students who are currently in the 8th or 9th grade;
- ◆ Must have at least a B to C+ grade average;
- ◆ Be a Virginia resident and a U.S. Citizen;
- ◆ STEM curiosity a plus;
- ◆ Acceptance to BLAST is based on grades, teacher recommendation, and essay.

## SESSION DATES

Virginia Tech  
 Session 1: July 13-16  
 Session 2: July 20-23  
 University of Virginia  
 July 27-30

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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