

**Resolution 2019-2020.I**

**Resolution to Approve New Major, Community Economic Development, in Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management**

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading:

December 9, 2019

Faculty Senate:

Staff Senate:

Graduate Student Assembly:

Student Government Association:

Second Reading:

Approved by University Council:

Approved by the President:

First Effective Date to Declare Major: Summer 2020

First Effective Date to Graduate: Winter 2022

**WHEREAS**, few high school graduates come to Virginia Tech (or any university) with awareness of “Agricultural Economics - AGECON” as a field of study and professional careers; and

**WHEREAS**, our current degree structure consists of two degrees: Agribusiness (AGRB) and Applied Economic Management (AEM); and

**WHEREAS**, the term Applied Economic Management (AEM) is not very meaningful to students (and parents) exploring majors; and

**WHEREAS**, the regional, national, and global challenges of rural Community Economic Development (CED), International Trade and Development (ITD), and Environmental Economics, Management, and Policy (EEMP) are key fields of study in today’s world; and

**WHEREAS**, students enrolled in one of these Concentrations/Options consider it to be their “major” and are disappointed that it is listed only on their transcripts, but not their diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural and Applied Economics (AAEC) Department provides coursework and experiential learning, fitting the VT-shaped curriculum that give students an in-depth understanding of these respected fields; and

**WHEREAS**, no new resources are required to establish the proposed Major in Community Economic Development at Virginia Tech and for it to be administered by the AAEC Department with the cooperation of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and

**WHEREAS**, letters of support have been received from all departments whose courses CED students would take, plus existing faculty research collaborations; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Major in Community Economic Development would be an identifiable curriculum that clearly signals the expertise and career focus of students toward industry, government agencies, academia, advocacy and organizations and international bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, prospective students will be more readily able to identify and understand what majors are available in AAEC Department at VT; and

**WHEREAS**, visibility of the new Major in Community Economic Development is anticipated to increase enrollment by 5-10 students above the current number of 75-80 AEM majors.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the new Major in Community Economic Development be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Science in Applied Economic Management effective Summer 2020 and the proposal be forwarded to the President for approval.