

**Congratulations to Ms. Sharnnia Artis, Virginia Tech
2007 Graduate Woman of the Year**

Sharnnia Artis, Ph.D. candidate in the Grado Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering was recently named the 2007 Graduate Woman of the Year. This award recognizes the accomplishments of VT graduate students based on their contribution to new knowledge through teaching, research, and scholarship; involvement in the graduate community at VT; participation in professional and campus organizations; and commitment to diversity. Artis' research involvement is immersed in diversifying engineering through improving the quality of life, health and safety of marginalized groups. Her dissertation involves developing and testing a training system design to enhance the safety skills of Latino construction workers.

In addition to diversifying engineering through research, she effectively embodies the Virginia Tech motto "Ut Prosim-That I May Serve" through diversity efforts within the Virginia Tech community. Her resume illustrates numerous contributions to promote diversity in Engineering. To name a few, her activities include:

- Mentoring underrepresented groups in middle, high school, and college;
- Co-advising undergraduate research projects;
- Facilitating workshops for youth to enhance self-confidence and increase interest in Engineering careers;
- Coordinating and presenting workshops on goal setting, graduate school preparation and scholarship opportunities; and
- Serving as President for the campus Council for the Advancement of Minority Engineering Organizations (CAMEO) for two years.

Furthermore, her contributions can be exemplified by the numerous academic and service awards received, including awards from:

- Fellow in the American Society of University Women;
- Black Caucus Student of the Year;
- Local Chapter NAACP Graduate Advisor of the Year;
- Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholar;
- National Society of Black Engineers Graduate Student of the Year; and
- Virginia Tech Citizen's Scholar.
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Finally, CAMEO recently gave her its' highest award for her dedication to engineering student affairs. Ms. Artis is currently a graduate assistant in the Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program and a former McNair Scholar.

The Center for Academic Enrichment and Excellence, Multicultural Academic Opportunities Program, and McNair Scholars student and staff commend Ms. Sharnnia Artis for her outstanding contributions and accomplishments.