

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

TONY TRIEU

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE IN THE PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

I help departments purchase the goods and services they need, reviewing purchase requests, working with vendors, and making sure everything follows university and state guidelines. I work with a wide range of areas across campus, so the work is always changing and keeps me learning.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I really enjoy working out and recently picked up snowboarding and hiking. I've been trying to hike every other weekend or so.

WHAT IS SOMETHING OUTSIDE THE OFFICE YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I've developed a deep appreciation and passion for hiking. It's become a meaningful way for me to disconnect from daily stress and reconnect with nature. Exploring the beautiful scenic trails around Blacksburg has been both grounding, fulfilling, and offers a sense of peace and clarity that carries over into other areas of my life.

WHAT'S ONE THING ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

I would love to take a road trip across the U.S., stopping to hike trails along the way and explore as many national parks as I can. It'd be the perfect mix of adventure, nature, and seeing the country from a different perspective.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

A 2-year-old cat named Pebbles.

FAVORITE FOOD?

My favorite food has to be Banh Mi. It's a Vietnamese sandwich with a fusion of savory meats and pickled vegetables all packed into a crispy, airy baguette. I think it's the perfect mix of flavors and textures.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPERPOWER, IT WOULD BE...?

Definitely the ability to eat anything I want without gaining weight. Being able to enjoy all my favorite foods guilt-free sounds like a dream.

FAVORITE PLACE YOU'VE VISITED?

My grandma's house in Vietnam. I have such fond memories of sharing delicious, authentic Vietnamese dishes with my extended family there.

I grew up in the U.S., while most of my extended family remained in Vietnam, so I never experienced big family gatherings. I always longed for moments where I could share meals, laughter, and stories with more than just my immediate family. Visiting Vietnam gave me that opportunity, and beyond the personal connection, the country's rich culture and natural beauty made the experience truly unforgettable. I hope to visit again soon.

A FAVORITE SPORT?

My favorite sport is wrestling. I wrestled throughout high school and developed a deep respect for the discipline, mental toughness, and strategy it demands. Before high school, I had no experience or knowledge of the sport. Wrestling became something I take major pride in. I worked tirelessly to grow from an inexperienced JV wrestler into a Varsity captain and state qualifier by my senior year.

The lessons I learned along the way helped shape who I am today, and the memories I made with my coaches and teammates, who I still consider a second family, are priceless.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

My first job was at Papa John's, working alongside a few of my high school buddies. It was a fun time, just a group of teenagers goofing off in a pizza shop whenever we had a break. We got creative and made all kinds of off-the-menu experiments, like pizza burritos, mini pizzas as toppings, and even burrito pizza bowls. Definitely one of the more entertaining jobs I've had.



Position: Buyer Specialist
(Procurement)

Joined Virginia Tech: 2025

Education: Bachelor's Degree,
Business IT; concentration in
Supply Chain Management (VT)

WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My father has always been a huge source of inspiration for me. He immigrated from Vietnam and works tirelessly to support our family. He never complains, always doing what is needed to be done. He's one of the most hardworking, humble, and honest people I know. I strive every day to live up to the example he's set, and to become even half the man he is.

YOU WIN THE LOTTERY. WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU BUY?

I'd buy my parents a big house, wherever they want it. It's the least I could do to thank them for everything they've done for me.

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE OR QUOTE?

One quote that's always stuck with me came from my high school wrestling coach: "If you're hot, run faster. If you're cold, run faster." It always gives me a warm chuckle thinking back to him, someone I have a lot of respect for. It's simple and kind of funny, but it's stuck with me ever since freshman year. I think about it any time I'm doing cardio or just trying to push through something tough.