

MEET THE FELLOW

KENNETH CULLEN

WHAT DREW YOU TO VIRGINIA TECH?

I was raised as a Hokie. My grandpa and I had season tickets to Virginia Tech football games throughout my entire childhood, so the university means a lot to me. It was the only school I applied to, so it was Virginia Tech or nothing for me.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR MAJOR?

With Finance, I figured if I learned about money, then I would know better how to make more and manage it better. With real estate, I'm passionate about design and development so it was an added bonus.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

Tae Kwon Do (TKD) and anything to deal with computers. I'm a 1st degree Black Belt in TKD and have practiced for over a decade. Throughout my time I competed in tournaments, taught other students, and learned self-defense.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT?

Universal design, architecture, and technology. I love learning and seeing advancements in the way mixed-use plazas, buildings, and developments are being created and the new techniques to make the world more accessible and sustainable to all. I also enjoy keeping up with any new technology that comes out, whether it be cars, phones, computers or VR headsets.

EVER MEET ANYONE FAMOUS?

I met Frank Beamer at one of the grilled cheese nights on campus, and I guess you could say I was cheesin' when I got a picture with him.

FAVORITE ICE CREAM?

Ben & Jerry's Half Baked.

SOMEWHERE YOU WOULD LOVE TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

I'd love to visit Japan, specifically Tokyo. The culture, nature, and food there is so fascinating to me, definitely a bucket list item.

WHAT TV SHOW ARE YOU WATCHING THAT OTHERS SHOULD CHECK OUT?

One Piece. It's the greatest piece of fiction ever made. It's the best-selling Japanese Manga of all time, has incredible world-building, character development, plot, and emotions. It will change your life.

WHO INSPIRES YOU?

My grandparents. My grandpa, Kenny, inspires me in every aspect of my life. Through philosophies he lived by, he molded me into the person I am today and will be tomorrow. My grandma, Sheila, showed me the importance of kindness, selflessness, and empathy like no one else.

DO YOU HAVE A PET PEEVE?

When people pronounce Appalachia wrong. It's "apple-atcha".

IF YOU COULD WITNESS ONE MOMENT IN HISTORY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The construction of the great pyramids. There are tons of theories about how these were perfectly constructed at the time, but nobody truly knows how they managed to build them so perfectly given their circumstances.

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

Be able to cure all cancers.

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?

The Virginia Tech Hokies, New Orleans Saints, and Boston Celtics.



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Why this Fellowship?

The experience of this program is so unique. I'm looking forward to working for Virginia Tech and seeing the behind the scenes of higher education. I hope to gain experience in campus planning, large-scale budgeting, and the inner workings of university financial offices.

WHAT ARE SOME ATTRIBUTES OR STRENGTHS YOU BRING TO THE JOB?

Level-headedness, empathy, and endurance. Life isn't easy, so being understanding of yourself and others can go a long way.

ANY PETS?

My partner and I have a hamster named "Hamsta" (very clever name.) She is the cutest little orange fur ball and her favorite things to do are escape from her house and eat strawberries.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

I always have the best memories in Lane Stadium and Cassell Coliseum. I've been going to Virginia Tech athletic games my entire life, so these two places are very special to me.

FAVORITE QUOTE?

"Man cannot remake himself without suffering for he is both the marble and the sculptor."
- Alexis Carrel