



Schmidt, Kevin <kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov>

Fwd: VDACS Message

Bronaugh, Jewel <jewel.bronaugh@vdacs.virginia.gov>
To: Kevin Schmidt <kevin.schmidt@vdacs.virginia.gov>

Mon, Feb 4, 2019 at 1:45 PM

FOIA Request

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bronaugh, Jewel <jewel.bronaugh@vdacs.virginia.gov>
Date: Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 11:05 AM
Subject: Re: VDACS Message
To: Cole, Linda <linda.cole@vdacs.virginia.gov>

Linda,

I spoke with Bettina who asked that I hold off on sending out any messages within the agency for the time being. Thanks.

On Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:56 AM Bronaugh, Jewel <jewel.bronaugh@vdacs.virginia.gov> wrote:

Thanks so much Linda for your feedback this morning. I appreciate you responding so quickly. Have a great day!

On Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:32 AM Cole, Linda <linda.cole@vdacs.virginia.gov> wrote:

Jewel,

Very well written message. No comments for edits. I'm glad you reminded employees about expressing their opinions. I was planning on distributing the Civility Policy this week but will wait until later in the week. I do not want to send out on Monday and employees think the policy was implemented because of this recent event.

Linda

Linda Cole
Director, Human Resources
VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
PO Box 1163, Richmond VA 23218
804-371-7719; fax 804-371-8879

On Sun, Feb 3, 2019 at 8:25 AM jewel.bronaugh@vdacs.virginia.gov <jewel.bronaugh@vdacs.virginia.gov> wrote:

Hello,

I would like to send the draft message below out to the agency later today. Please review, edit and provide feedback. Your feedback will be helpful. Afterwards, I will forward to Bettina for her review. Thanks so much for your assistance.

Good Morning,

On Friday evening, the news media released the report of Governor Northam appearing in a racist photograph in the 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook. Governor Northam apologized Friday and says he has no recollection of appearing in the yearbook photo. What occurred and the negative impacts that resulted are extremely unfortunate and have adversely affected many.

At VDACS, we report to the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry and to the Office of the Governor. Ultimately our responsibility is to support those offices and to serve the state of Virginia. I respect that everyone has personal reactions to what occurred. As state agency employees I ask you to maintain the highest level of professionalism in representing this agency. Please do not share personal opinions in your work interactions with clients, customers and partners, either face-to-face or by phone. And, please refrain from posting reactions on social media. It is critical that we work together to get through this challenging time.

As we go forward I am confident we will move in positive directions. I sincerely appreciate your support of VDACS and your continued commitment to ensuring we are a strong agency that does outstanding work to advance agriculture in the state of Virginia.

Sent from my iPad

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Jewel H. Bronaugh, Ph.D.
Commissioner
Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Tel: 804-786-3501

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