



# Luke Laliberte

Lithia, FL

## Virginia Tech

It may be surprising for many to learn, but this past semester for me at Virginia Tech was actually a great experience despite COVID and all the associated state and university restrictions we all endured to combat the pandemic. While it shut down attending all major sporting, charity and social events on campus and moved nearly all classes online, I still managed to meet some interesting new friends and future roommates despite not knowing a soul on campus upon arrival. I found my previous work experience as a tutor and rigorous high school curriculum were valuable in allowing me to help some of my fellow freshmen dorm residents survive our online courses. Informal tutoring allowed me to meet more of my peers and not dwell so much on how life could have been if not for COVID. While online classes were not my personally preferred manner for learning, I still managed to do very well academically my first semester in the College of Engineering. When offline, I found I was able to stay active playing soccer regularly during the week and hiking on most weekends with small groups of other students.

Attending Virginia Tech has easily been one of the best life decisions I have made, and Wings Over America was instrumental in making it happen. I cannot thank WOA and its sponsors enough for all the financial support and encouragement they have provided me and all the other scholarship foundation recipients. It means a lot and is making a real difference – even more so now than ever as we have had to face so many other challenges these past few months and adapt to a truly unique environment.