

VCU

VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost | Division of
Community Engagement



Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching

Virginia Commonwealth University is recognized as a Carnegie Community Engaged Institution and a President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member with distinction.



WORKING TOGETHER. CHANGING LIVES.

2014-2015 IMPACT REPORT



"High quality university-community partnerships is the key to generating innovative solutions to the challenges facing our communities and to preparing students to be tomorrow's engaged citizens."



Catherine Howard, Ph.D.
Vice Provost, Division of Community Engagement
Associate Professor,
Department of Psychology

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PROVOST



VCU a National Model for Community-Engaged Research University

Greetings:

This academic year was filled with special recognitions for the tremendous work between VCU and our community partners to address pressing needs and opportunities that affect the well-being of the Richmond region. I am particularly proud of the fact that VCU was designated a community engaged campus by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. A team at VCU worked for almost a year on the very demanding application. VCU is one of only 54 institutions that Carnegie has classified "Very High Research" and "Community Engaged."

This validates VCU's intended mission to be an urban research university that addresses the critical challenges of the day, and translates and disseminates that new knowledge to those who can benefit most.

As Barbara Holland told us during her visit in March, VCU is well positioned to serve as a national model of an engaged research university and to be the university of tomorrow.

Our Division of Community Engagement provides a unique centralized infrastructure that promotes high quality community engaged research and teaching; supports exemplar programs such as ASPIRE, AmeriCorps and the Mary and Frances Youth Center; and establishes sustained relationships with our community, especially our neighbors.

This annual report provides highlights and examples of the outstanding community engagement of VCU faculty, students and staff. Their work is possible in large part due to the talented and dedicated staff in the Division of Community Engagement.

They strive to achieve our mission every day, to "mobilize university-community partnerships that generate innovative solutions to societal challenges and prepare the engaged citizens of tomorrow."

I encourage you to read this report and to visit our website at **community.vcu.edu**, where community engagement stories are posted, and events and resources are updated.

I hope you will join us in our community engagement efforts this year. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. I welcome your input.

Sincerely,

Catherine W. Howard, Ph.D.
Vice provost
Division of Community Engagement

Associate professor
Department of Psychology

Connect



@VCUCommunity



/VCUCommunityEngagement



/VCUDCE

Contact Us

Division of Community Engagement
Ginter House
901 W. Franklin Street
(804) 828-8824
community.vcu.edu



2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS



Community Engagement Scholar Barbara Holland Visits Campus

The Division of Community Engagement hosted international community engagement scholar Barbara Holland, Ph.D., on campus March 2 and 3. Holland is a professor, researcher and consultant recognized for her scholarship and expertise on organizational change in higher education with a focus on the institutionalization of community engagement.

Her visit included meetings across campus with university administration and President Rao, faculty, staff and students to discuss community engagement's impact on teaching, research, student recruitment and success, collaboration with other universities, promotion and tenure and advancement.

A highlight of her visit was a public keynote address, "Promising Pathways: Strategic Importance of Community Engagement in the Future of Research Universities," that she delivered to an audience of community partners, faculty, staff, students and VCU neighborhood liaisons.

Watch a video of her address at [youtube.com/VCUDCE](https://www.youtube.com/VCUDCE).



VCU Wins 2014 C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award

Virginia Commonwealth University has won the 2014 C. Peter Magrath University Community Engagement Award for the Pharmacist Collaborative Care and Outreach in the Community program in the university's School of Pharmacy.

The national award is presented annually by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) in recognition of outstanding community outreach and engagement partnership efforts by a four-year public university.

The Pharmacist Collaborative Care and Outreach in the Community program includes seven academic-community partnerships with independent senior-living facilities and underserved clinics, five large-scale community outreach programs, and programs to train the next generation of health professionals.

The award, made possible by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, includes a \$20,000 stipend and a sculpture, which is housed in the Office of the President.



VCU Receives 2015 Carnegie Community Engagement Classification

VCU received the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2015 Community Engagement Classification. VCU first received the classification in 2006. Institutions originally classified in 2006 or 2008 were eligible to apply for reclassification this year.

VCU is now part of an elite group of 361 colleges and universities nationwide, including six in Virginia, to earn the recognition. VCU is also one of only 54 universities designated by the Carnegie Foundation as "Community Engaged" with "Very High Research Activity."

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1905 and chartered in 1906 by an Act of Congress, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center whose charge is "to do and perform all things necessary to encourage, uphold, and dignify the profession of the teacher and the cause of higher education."

Explore more community engagement highlights from across the university at community.vcu.edu.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INSTITUTE

The Division of Community Engagement, along with the Center for Clinical and Translational Research, hosted VCU's annual Community Engagement Institute May 11-15, 2015. The institute provides faculty members, community partners and graduate students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of community engagement.

Approximately 30 people participated in the two-day Service Learning component, which provided information about service-learning pedagogy, allowed for reflection on the integration of service-learning into course design and gave an overview of relevant research on service-learning and community engagement.

The Community-Engaged Research component encompassed three days, with 65 participants presenting and learning about best practices to promote high-quality and high-impact CEnR, including CEnR skill building, funding, partnership development and sustainability and effective dissemination. **Learn more at community.vcu.edu.**



"Attending the institute really helped me to see the value in employing the principles of community engagement in my work. You leave the institute with skills, knowledge and resources that you can utilize immediately."

— **Jasmine Abrams**
Recent Ph.D in Health Psychology



"Junior faculty need to get out of the little bubble of their home units and meet folks all across VCU who are doing great work in terms of teaching and scholarship. It will equip you with an extensive network of folks with varying levels of expertise. In my mind, the institute was an opportunity to engage and learn from the experts."

— **Rowena L. Briones, Ph.D.**
Assistant Professor, Public Relations, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture, College of Humanities and Sciences, VCU



"By participating in the institute, during a very short time, you can meet other researchers interested in community engaged research and make connections in the Richmond community for new partnerships. This was a valuable use of time - I walked away with new connections to immediately enhance my research, introductions to new dissemination techniques and an expanded professional network."

— **Patricia W. Slattum, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**
Professor and Vice-Chair for Graduate Studies, Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science; Director, Geriatric Pharmacotherapy Program

Browse resources, presentations and information provided via past Community Engagement Institutes at **scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cei**.

Community Engagement Grants Awarded 2015-2016

The VCU Council for Community Engagement provides \$100,000 in one-year Community Engagement Grants to enhance and increase university engagement with the greater Richmond community and contribute to the research and teaching of VCU units. Awards are up to \$20,000 each.

A CBPR Evaluation of “Mommies, Babies, Bellies & Daddies - the ABC’s of Breastfeeding”

Community partners: Healthy Hearts Plus II; Kinfolks Community
VCU partners: Department of Sociology; Institute for Women’s Health

Expanding Healthy Relationships in Central Virginia

Community partners: Heart Havens, Inc.; Virginia Anti-Violence Project
VCU partners: Department of Rehabilitation Counseling; Partnership for People with Disabilities; School of Education; School of Social Work

Monroe Park Campus Garden

Community partners: Center for High Blood Pressure; Community Food Collaborative
VCU partners: Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science; Division of Community Engagement; Office of Sustainability; Green Unity; mOb Studio & Storefront for Community Design; RamPantry; Verde

PALETTE in Motion

Community partners: Promoting Art for Life Enrichment Through Transgenerational Engagement (PALETTE); Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging
VCU partners: Departments of Dance and Choreography, Gerontology, Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science, and Physical Therapy

\$WAGIFY: Savings and Wealth as Goals in African American Youth

Community partners: Girls for a Change; Ndugu Business & Leadership Academy
VCU partners: Departments of African American Studies, Finance, and Psychology

The Red Flag Campaign: Promoting Prevention through Program Messaging Evaluation

Community partner: Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance
VCU partners: Department of Social and Behavioral Health; Institute of Women’s Health; The Wellness Resource Center; Richard T. Robertson School of Media & Culture; School of Education

Currents of Change Awards

The VCU Council for Community Engagement highlights and celebrates partnerships that benefit students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community partners on local, state, regional, national, and global levels.

2015 Overall Winner, Exemplary Partnership in Outreach: The Safety Net Primary Care Psychology Collaborative

The VCU Ambulatory Care Center, The Daily Planet and Fan Free Clinic, three Richmond safety net primary care clinics, reached out to the Department of Psychology for help addressing unmet mental health needs among their patients. Dr. Bruce Rybarczyk embedded supervised doctoral trainees from the clinical and counseling psychology doctoral programs in these clinics. Since 2008, trainees have delivered over 8,500 sessions of pro bono behavioral care to underserved individuals in the Greater Richmond Area.

Community partner: Fan Free Clinic; The Daily Planet

VCU partners: Departments of Internal Medicine and Psychology; Ambulatory Care Center

Exemplary Partnership in Research: Seymour Living Lab

Community partner: Children’s Museum of Richmond (CMoR)

VCU partner: Department of Occupational Therapy

Exemplary Partnership in Teaching: Global Health and Social Media

Community partners: Preemptive Love Coalition; World Pediatric Project

VCU partner: Richard T. Robertson School of Media & Culture Center for Media+Health

Exemplary Partnership, Student Initiated: Community Food Collaborative

Community partners: Fairfield Middle School; Henrico County Public Schools

VCU partners: ASPIRE; School of Education

For more information or to nominate a partnership, visit community.vcu.edu/council/currents-of-change-award.

TEACHING AND LEARNING



Community-engaged teaching connects students and faculty with activities that address community-identified needs through mutually beneficial partnerships that deepen students' academic and civic learning. The Division of Community Engagement supports the implementation of community-engaged teaching through innovative programs including ASPIRE and Service-Learning.

ASPIRE

VCU ASPIRE is a living-learning community promoting community engagement through academic coursework and co-curricular activity. VCU ASPIRE enriches and deepens students' understanding of their capacity to create positive change in communities and address critical societal needs through long-term sustainable partnerships.

- ASPIRE students completed **10,017** co-curricular hours, with **526** activities offered.
- The overall GPA for ASPIRE students is **3.16**. Within the program, there are 42 majors represented, 17 students with double majors, 24 honor students and 21 students with GPAs greater than 3.75.
- ASPIRE partnered with **104** community and campus partners in the areas of accessible and affordable housing; community building; education and workforce development; environmental sustainability; and health and wellness.

Service-Learning

Service-Learning is a high-impact educational practice that engages students in organized service activities and guided reflection. The service activities benefit the community and enhance the academic curriculum of the participating students.

- **233** class sections and **117** distinct courses taught by **92** instructors.
- More than **130** sustained community partners.
- **72,160** service hours were provided by approximately **3,469** Service-Learning students.
- **Seven** projects and partnerships awarded **\$9,400** through Service-Learning Partnership and Project Awards Programs.
- **14** faculty supported through Service-Learning Travel Grants program to travel to present at professional conferences related to their service-learning courses.
- **43** Service-Learning Teaching Assistants provided support to faculty members teaching designated courses.

ASPIRE STUDENTS SAY...

"My experiences in ASPIRE have equipped me with the tools I will need to be a successful student leader. I know that I can use my diversity of experiences to fuel students' love for community engagement."

"I feel as though I have gained a lot of confidence when it comes to communicating with others. I feel much more comfortable speaking up and reaching out to communities."



OUTREACH

Community-engaged outreach is the application and provision of institutional resources, knowledge or services that directly benefits the community.

Neighborhood Outreach

- The DCE and the VCU Police Department attended more than **55** neighborhood association meetings to provide updates, solicit feedback on VCU-neighborhood priorities and address community concerns.
- The VCU Neighborhood Team hosted **four** meetings with neighborhood liaisons and area leaders to discuss issues of common interest, including VCU capital projects.
- VCU's Project Clean & Green Move partnered with Richmond's Clean City Commission, Department of Public Works and **five** neighborhood associations to clean up surrounding neighborhoods during end-of-lease periods in summer 2014. VCU partnered with Goodwill Industries to collect and donate **9,000** pounds of household items from the residence halls.
- More than **300** students and community members participated in Paint the Town Green in the spring. The success of this neighborhood beautification event is due to the collaboration between DCE, area neighborhood associations and Springboard VCU.

AmeriCorps

VCU AmeriCorps is part of a national service corps and is the largest and longest-running AmeriCorps program in Virginia, focusing initiatives around children's literacy.

40 members provided **21,510** service hours; **790** volunteers recruited; **45** events that helped to strengthen families.

VCU AmeriCorps alumni say...

"My VCU AmeriCorp experience has taught me to get more involved with the community and to continue to volunteer even after my service. My hands-on experience from my service has better prepared me for my career."

"Working with VCU Americorps has been the most rewarding experience of my life. Being able to work with children on a daily basis made me realize that I want to continue working with underprivileged children as a future career. I will always be grateful to this program for opening my eyes to the needs of the community."



1,452 VCU employees took advantage of their community service leave hours provided to state employees in 2014, which is an increase of **4** percent over 2013. These employees accounted for **15,522** hours of service, an increase of **5.4** percent over 2013.

Literacy support service to:

10 elementary schools

60 classrooms

1,160 students



OUTREACH

Mary and Frances Youth Center

The Mary and Frances Youth Center offers two private tennis courts and classrooms designed to provide programming and training to enhance the lives of youth in the Richmond metro area.

- **18** agencies and **45** sites completed the Youth Program Quality Improvement process, which helps out-of-school time programs assess operations, create improvement plans and improve quality through staff training and technical assistance, impacting **1,800+** youth.
- The Discovery summer program served **118** middle school youth and partnered with **11** university programs to provide in-depth experiences and skill development opportunities to engage youth in career exploration in the STEAM-H fields.
- **225** youth participated in summer camp and **188** in afterschool programming, supported by **1,923** volunteer hours.

Virginia Mentoring Partnership

Virginia Mentoring Partnership provides training and technical assistance to mentors and mentoring programs to increase the quality and quantity of mentoring for Virginia's youth.

- **1,530** volunteer mentors and **109** mentoring program staff members trained across the state in research-based best practices.
- **78** sessions of customized consultation provided to mentoring programs to develop program practices in accordance with nationally recognized quality standards.
- **59** referrals of volunteers and youth to programs.
- **16** AmeriCorps VISTA members placed at mentoring sites across Virginia to build program capacity and recruit new mentors.

View the State of Mentoring report at vamentoring.org/about/mentoring-matters/need.

Lobs & Lights, the 10 year anniversary celebration of the Lobs & Lessons program, brought 160 participants and volunteers to the MFYC to experience glow tennis.

93 volunteers supported the 6th Annual Young Aces Open.

208 4th and 5th graders participated from **26** Richmond Public Schools elementary schools.



COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP AT VCU

Community-engaged research (CEnR) is a collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community. CEnR identifies the assets of all stakeholders and incorporates them in the design and conduct of the different phases of the research process.



CEnR Intramural Pipeline of CEnR Funding

In collaboration with the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR), the Council for Community Engagement and the Federation, the CEnR office developed an intramural pipeline of funding to support high-quality, high-impact CEnR, from community partnership development to pilot project implementation. Funded projects serve as catalysts for ongoing partnerships sustained by external funding. Learn more at community.vcu.edu.

CEnR Across VCU

This year, **59** CEnR projects were carried out by **21** academic units and departments, with **65** community partners involved at different levels of engagement.

To see examples and stories, visit community.vcu.edu/news-and-events/community-engaged-research/.

CEnR UROP Fellowships

For the second year in collaboration with the CCTR, the CEnR office funded three undergraduate scholars to perform research, with the goal of encouraging young scholars to pursue CEnR.

Projects included:

- Zachary Stahl, painting and print making major: "Hydroponics and Community: Tying Together Project-Based Art with Urban Agriculture."
- Cydni Gordon, psychology major: "Left Behind: Exploring the Impact of Migration on Individuals, Families, and the Village Community of Teotitlán del Valle."
- Emily Johnson, dental hygiene major: "The Effects of Dietary Counseling and Nutrition Education on Patient Awareness and Compliance."

Spotlight on CEnR

CenteringPregnancy and VoicingElder are just two of the hundreds of community-engaged research projects VCU has completed in the past several years. Community-engaged research holds the goal of contributing to both academic disciplines and the community by incorporating input from researchers and community members.

Between Jan. 1, 2011, and Jan. 26, 2013, VCU researchers began or completed 263 total projects involving community partners, and their findings benefited community members from every major point in the lifespan.

"At VCU, we are dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people across the lifespan in our community and beyond," said Valerie Holton, Ph.D., director of community-engaged research in VCU's Division of Community Engagement. "Partnering with the community members increases the chance that we will ask the questions that are critical to the people that the research intends to impact."

More CEnR Stories

Read stories about community-engaged research in action at community.vcu.edu/research.

COMMUNITY-ENGAGED RESEARCH OFFICE

McKenzie Hired as CEnR Coordinator



Tessa McKenzie joined the Division of Community Engagement in October 2014 as the research coordinator of CEnR. In this role, she supports the Division of Community Engagement's efforts to advance high-quality and high-impact CEnR, as well as the development of the division's and the university's capacity for tracking and measuring its relationship with and impact on our communities.

Prior to joining the VCU team, McKenzie worked at the Virginia Department of Health as Planner for a statewide HIV/AIDS healthcare program. She also led community-engaged research efforts in Oregon and throughout Latin America.

McKenzie earned a master's degree in public health from Portland State University and a bachelor's degree in Spanish from the College of Charleston.

CMST 691 Collaborative Curiosity: Designing Community-Engaged Research

Students, faculty and community members from VCU, Richmond and around the globe learned about community-engaged research through a connected learning course held May 18 to July 8.

141 people subscribed to the course, and **11** students registered for academic credit. **261** people participated via #CuriousCoLab on Twitter.

COURSE PARTICIPANTS VIA TWITTER...

"CEnR is the model for socially just and responsible research. Research means nothing if it's not engaged w/ ppl it's about!" - @RCaseyCat

"No one knows the community like the community members, they deserve to have their voices heard #CuriousCoLab" - @TeriNicole78

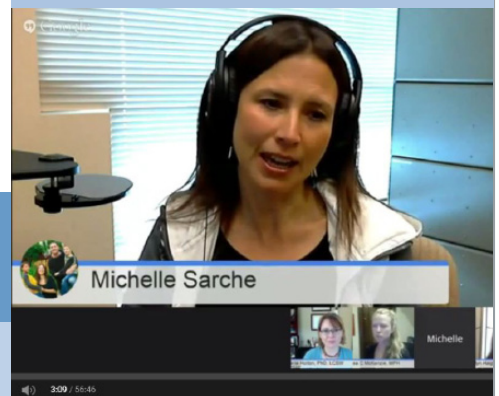
"Don't hold too tightly to your 'researcher' identity; let yourself become part of the community you're collaborating with." - @MJVechinski



313 listserv subscribers get the latest CEnR news at VCU. To subscribe, e-mail engage@vcu.edu with "subscribe to CEnR" as the subject line.

Featured Course Tweet

"Research that is FOR the people, is BY the people #curiouscolab"
- @BreunBelcherSW



Key Topics in CEnR

Through CMST 691, course faculty have developed 10 recorded interviews with community- and academic-based researchers on key topics in the design of CEnR. View the interviews at youtube.com/VCUDCE.

Promoting community engagement news

Community engagement stories from across the university were posted on the Division of Community Engagement's website this academic year, highlighting teaching, service and scholarship activities on campus. Visitation to the website has more than doubled from last academic year. Read the stories at community.vcu.edu.

E-mail your community engagement project, service or research news to engage@vcu.edu and we'll highlight it on our website and social media.



VCU: A national model for community engagement and regional impact


Community Engagement involves mutually-beneficial partnerships that impact our teaching and learning, our scholarship and our outreach efforts that strive to improve the human condition and support the public good at home and abroad.

As outlined in VCU's Quest for Distinction, the Division of Community Engagement is prepared to lead the university in becoming a national model for community engagement and regional impact. VCU is one of only 54 universities to be designated by the Carnegie Foundation as "Community Engaged" with "Very High Research Activity."

Contact us

Division of Community Engagement
Ginter House, 901 W. Franklin Street
(804) 828-8824
community.vcu.edu

 @VCUCommunity

 /VCUCommunityEngagement

 /VCUDCE

VISION

VCU is a community of engaged citizens, working together, changing lives.

DCE MISSION

The VCU Division of Community Engagement mobilizes university-community partnerships that generate innovative solutions to societal challenges and prepares the engaged citizens of tomorrow.