Virginia Commonwealth University is recognized as a Carnegie Community Engaged Institution and a President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Member with distinction.
“As an institution, we are integrated into the fabric of our city and strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for those who live, work and study in this shared space. VCU has a unique ethos that embraces community engagement.”

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PROVOST

VCU: a National Model for Community-Engaged Research University

Greetings:

Ten years ago, VCU proclaimed that we will become a national model for community engagement and regional impact and then established the Division of Community Engagement.

I am pleased to report that VCU has made tremendous strides to attain this strategic goal, and we have done so through the integration of community engagement throughout our teaching, research and outreach.

We have faculty who are recognized as community engaged scholars and are generating new knowledge and creative products that are having a positive impact in our community and in their disciplines.

We have thousands of students who are contributing to the community through service-learning courses and structured co-curricular activities and in turn, they are becoming more enlightened and engaged citizens.

We provide unique summer and after school enrichment programs for Richmond youth at the Mary and Frances Youth Center and through the VCU AmeriCorps program which encourage these children to succeed in school.

And as an institution, we are integrated into the fabric of our city and strive to create a safe and nurturing environment for those who live, work and study in this shared space. VCU has a unique ethos that embraces community engagement, and the Division of Community Engagement feels privileged to be a contributor to our success.

This year’s annual report provides data that shows the amazing growth over the past ten years.

We also introduce you to a sampling of the people – our faculty, staff and students – who are making it real – to be a national model for community engagement.

Sincerely,

Catherine W. Howard, Ph.D.
Vice provost
Division of Community Engagement
Associate professor
Department of Psychology

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community.vcu.edu
In 2016, the Division of Community Engagement will celebrate its 10th anniversary. By collaborating with VCU faculty to advance community-engaged teaching and research that address critical issues in the region and world, the division has led VCU in becoming a national model for community engagement.

Exemplary faculty who integrate teaching, research and service through their community engagement will be highlighted throughout the academic year. Hear more from these scholars at panel programs during the 2016-17 academic year. A full schedule will be posted on the calendar at community.vcu.edu.

Combining teaching, outreach and scholarship to challenge ageism through art

Tracey Gendron, associate professor in the Department of Gerontology in the School of Allied Health, is working to combat ageism by combining her teaching, outreach and scholarship through PALETTE, a transgenerational program that pairs students and older adults in professionally conducted arts programs. She said the Division of Community Engagement (DCE) has been integral to her work, providing support and direction, connections in the community and funding.

Since 2013, approximately VCU 80 service-learning students in pharmacy, physical therapy and social work have been paired with 60 older adults from the community. PALETTE participants work on visual and movement arts projects and end their five-week session together with a gallery show or performance.

“We’re challenging the assumption that aging means decline, and we’re wiping away the anxiety of working with older adults and improving how people feel about their own aging,” she said. “It’s about seeing people as people. This isn’t some old person. This is my art partner.”

Access to quality medical care: it takes a village

When Steve Crossman, M’95, was a student at VCU Medical School, he knew just one other student outside his medical classes and only because they went to undergrad together.

Now an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, Crossman and his colleagues within the VCU Health System lead partnerships with free clinics in both Virginia and Honduras that allow teams of health sciences students to work together in clinical settings.

Doctors working with pharmacists; comparing notes with physical therapists; consulting with nurses; and collaborating with dentists. Exposing students to a model that sends a clear message: the only way to provide high quality primary care to underserved populations is to partner with each other.

“People who come through the program understand that they’ve just done something incredibly radical. They’ve assembled across the barriers – not only incarceration vs. freedom, but the so-called barriers of race, class, status, criminal history and gender and sexuality differences. They’ve managed to make a mockery of the idea that diversity is a problem. Diversity is what makes this class great. They’ve realized we’ve always been one, and there really is no ‘other.’”

Sparking Social Change through Writing

Kick-started by a Community Engagement Grant, David Coogan, associate professor in the College of Humanities and Sciences, developed the Open Minds program, which brings VCU students into the Richmond City Justice Center for a service-learning course.

On equal ground, students and jail residents participate in writing workshops to share their stories and perspectives.

“People who come through the program understand that they’ve just done something incredibly radical. They’ve assembled across the barriers – not only incarceration vs. freedom, but the so-called barriers of race, class, status, criminal history and gender and sexuality differences. They’ve managed to make a mockery of the idea that diversity is a problem. Diversity is what makes this class great. They’ve realized we’ve always been one, and there really is no ‘other.’”
Celebrating Community-Engaged Scholars

Promoting mental health in Richmond’s Latina/o Community

In 2015, Rosalie Corona, associate professor in clinical psychology, facilitated a discussion with community partners about critical health issues in Richmond’s Latina/o community. A key finding? Not enough bilingual mental health providers and limited access to needed services.

She is now training 50 members of the Latina/o community to become mental health “first responders,” able to identify mental health symptoms and connect with services. These health workers will address the cultural stigmas related to mental health and decrease barriers to receiving assistance.

“For me, research, teaching and service are totally integrated. The impact of my scholarship is not just in journal publications, but rather how many people within the community have access to care.” A perfect example of that is her founding and directing the VCU Latina/o Mental Health Clinic, working with community partners and VCU psychology doctoral students to provide mental health services to the community.

“When I was brand new to VCU, Cathy Howard [vice provost of community engagement] heard about my research interests, and scheduled a meeting with various stakeholders. It was my first connection to the community, and it was the start of it all.”

Non-traditional partners empower citizens to improve community

Urban and Regional Planning Associate Professor Meghan Gough’s teaching and research focuses on how collaborative partnerships can affect local sustainability goals. In 2013, with the help of students in her Sustainable Community Development course, she worked with Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Richmond’s Sustainability Office, and GroundworkRVA to launch “Beautiful RVA,” a coalition of public and private agencies, organizations and individuals improving the quality of life in Richmond through landscape beautification and increased greenspaces.

Aided by a Community Engagement Grant, the partnership aims to positively transform the urban landscape, build community pride, deter crime and promote social cohesion in communities.

“The key is empowering community members so they have the power to impact how their city develops and work to improve community conditions.”

Her research will also reach a wider audience through Public Gardens and Community Revitalization: Partnerships for Social Change, a book that will be published by Cornell University Press in 2017 that looks at different cities and how creative partnerships realize common community goals.

Groundbreaking healthcare model impacts healthcare education, supports research and provides quality care

It’s 8:30 a.m. when an interdisciplinary team of pharmacy, nursing, social work, medical and psychology service-learning students arrives at Dominion Place, a home for older adults near VCU’s Monroe Park campus.

Led by Kelechi “K.C.” Ogbonna, assistant professor, Geriatrics Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science, in partnership with Pamela Parsons, clinical associate professor in the School of Nursing, the students and their professors will spend the day providing care coordination services to residents in a specially-built clinic room on the first floor of the building.

“We’re really challenging how traditional healthcare is delivered. Members of the community are receiving access to quality care, we’re gaining valuable insight and data about whether enhanced care coordination decreases ER visitation and improves chronic conditions, and in the midst of all of it, we’re teaching.”

Started with a Community Engagement Grant, the Richmond Health and Wellness Program was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the Health Resources & Services Administration. Three years on, the program operates in five residential buildings in Richmond and has served more than 450 community members. Approximately 550 students have taken part in the program, gaining insight into the social determinants of health within the context of where their patients live.

Read more community-engaged scholar stories and help the DCE celebrate 10 years of Working Together, Changing Lives at community.vcu.edu.
Safety and Protection of Minors

Activities for non-enrolled minors at colleges and universities are integral components of outreach activities and pipeline programs on urban campuses. Youth on campus present unique opportunities and experiences as well as challenges in ensuring appropriate controls and protections.

VCU recognized the need for a centralized process to address the safety of youth on campus and began developing a policy that ensures minors on campus are healthy and safe.

A working group of stakeholders representing diverse youth programs and administrative units across the university and community were involved in the creation of the policy. The highlights include:

• Requirements for individuals who interact with minors
• Tier system to categorize program requirements
• Online trainings, forms, and guidance documents to support programs and the policy
• Tracking and oversight of all youth programs on campus’ compliance to the policy

The Mary and Frances Youth Center is responsible for the administration, oversight and educational support of the policy. A Youth Programs Manual was also designed to bolster the new policy and serves as a best practice guide for youth programs. Dedicated support of the new policy will allow youth at VCU to feel safe, build positive relationships and acquire essential life skills.

Learn more at mfyc.vcu.edu.

20 Years of Partnerships through AmeriCorps, Carver Community

The partnerships VCU faculty, staff and students form with the community are many and help to foster relationships that impact community needs and teaching and learning. Two ongoing partnerships have reached 20-year milestones in their history of collaboration.

VCU’s AmeriCorps is the oldest and largest AmeriCorps program in Virginia. AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages individuals across the United States to address community needs. In Richmond, the program specifically focuses on education. The program focuses on out-of-school programs that also serve students who attend Richmond Public Schools.

VCU AmeriCorps members are helping these groups expand capacity to reach more kindergarten-through-fifth-grade students at high-priority schools.

Another important university-community partnership that celebrates sustained collaboration over the years is the Carver-VCU Partnership.

In 1996, the university launched the Carver-VCU Partnership to create a shared urban community with a commitment to improving the neighborhood’s quality of life, while providing learning opportunities for students.

The legacy of this partnership is being carried on through an expanded vision that incorporates additional neighborhoods surrounding campus, including Carver, the Fan, Jackson Ward, Oregon Hill and Randolph.

Community-Engaged Partnership Map

In Fall 2016, the Division of Community Engagement, in partnership with the Center for Clinical and Translational Research and VCUHealth, will launch the Community-Engaged Partnership Map. Utilizing VIVO, a research networking tool, the map will serve as an institutional resource to connect, coordinate and collaborate on community-engaged activities and identify potential areas of opportunity.

The map will include information on:

• VCU and VCU Health Units
• Focus Topics
• Regional Geographic Reach
• Activity Types
• Faculty Scholarship
• Community-Engaged Partners

View the map at community.vcu.edu.

Explore more community engagement highlights from across the university at community.vcu.edu.
The Division of Community Engagement, along with the Center for Clinical and Translational Research, hosted VCU’s annual Community Engagement Institute May 17-19, 2016. The institute provides faculty members, community partners and graduate students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of community-university engagement. Sixty-eight participants included 22 community members and 46 VCU faculty, staff and graduate students from more than 27 departments and units.

This year’s institute featured a new format, restructured to focus on the core competencies that are fundamental to any community-university engagement. This new format combined what were previously offered as separate service-learning and community-engaged research mini-institutes, affording participants the opportunity to dive deep into crucial skills needed for successful community-university partnerships. Through highly participatory hands-on workshops, participants were exposed to foundations, ethics and tools for collaborative work together.

As part of the new format, Day Three of this year’s institute offered an RVA mini-immersion experience. Richmond has had a long and troubled history of segregation, discrimination and racism. The DCE and CCTR recognize that to extend community-university engagement in the Richmond region, we must explore this past. Participants embarked on a walking tour of a historically black neighborhood (hosted by the Valentine Museum) and visited local museums to learn more about how African-Americans defined the Richmond area.

Enhanced Networking

- “Audience Spotlights” throughout the event gave participants a chance to hear about the amazing work being done in and around Richmond by university-community partners.
- Speed-networking allowed everyone to exchange names, information and launch “big ideas.”
- A “Road-map to VCU-RVA” wrap-up offered participants a chance to collectively deconstruct what they’d learned and put together a plan for moving forward in their own community-university engagement.

Institute Content

- 21st Century Community-University Engagement
- Initiating and Sustaining Community-University Partnerships
- Ethics and Critical Reflection in Community-University Partnerships
- Introduction to Community-Engaged Research and Service Learning
- Evaluating and Assessing Engagement Work
- Communicating and Disseminating Information about Community-University Engagement
- Inclusive Collaboration

Browse resources, presentations and information provided via past Community Engagement Institutes at scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cei.
## Community Engagement Grants Awarded 2016-2017

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.

### Building a Better Binford: VCU Art of Nursing Goes to School
**Community partners:** Binford Middle School; Communities in Schools  
**VCU partners:** Departments of Art Education; Family & Community Health Nursing

### STEM Exploration and Enrichment Academy
**Community partner:** Henrico County Public Schools  
**VCU partners:** Life Sciences - Center for the Study of Biological Complexity; The Honors College

### Strengthening a Community-Engaged Research Partnership to Promote Diabetes Management in Richmond
**Community partner:** YMCA of Greater Richmond  
**VCU partners:** Departments of Family Medicine & Population Health - Division of Epidemiology and Psychology

### Training Latino Residents in Mental Health First Aid
**Community partners:** The Sacred Heart Center  
**VCU partners:** Department of Psychology; Schools of Social Work and Medicine - Division of Epidemiology

### Designing a Place to Be: A University-Community Partnership for Addressing the Needs of Adults with Autism
**Community partner:** A Grace Place  
**VCU partners:** Departments of Gerontology and Interior Design; Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment of People with Physical Disabilities (VCU-RRTC)

### MITI Meals: A Hands-On Approach to Nourishing Families
**Community partner:** Shalom Farms  
**VCU partners:** Departments of Kinesiology & Health Sciences; Pediatrics and Psychology

### 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 Research: Wellness Engagement Petersburg
The Wellness Engagement Project, funded by an NIMHD R24 award, has used a community-based participatory research approach to build capacity and plan a comprehensive, multi-level intervention to address obesity and related health concerns in the underserved community of Petersburg. VCU faculty, graduate students and community partners have contributed numerous hours to facilitate extensive data collection and dissemination resulting in the start of 10 new walking groups, a Million Mile Challenge, and physical activity and nutrition events attended by over 100 adults and youth.  
**Community partners:** Pathways; Petersburg YMCA; VSU Cooperative Extension  
**VCU partners:** Departments of Family Medicine & Population Health, Health Behavior & Policy and Pediatrics; L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs; VCUArts

#### Exemplary Partnership in Outreach: Foot Clinic at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
**Community partner:** St. Paul’s Episcopal Church  
**VCU partners:** Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Allied Health

#### Exemplary Partnership in Teaching: VCU Peer Mentoring at the Villa
**Community partner:** St. Joseph’s Villa  
**VCU partner:** Department of Focused Inquiry

For more information or to nominate a partnership, visit community.vcu.edu/council/currents-of-change-award.
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 program 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 **11,200** co-curricular hours, with over **700** activities offered.
- The overall GPA for ASPiRE students is **3.2**, with **36** majors represented.
- ASPiRE partnered with **108** 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.

- **108** distinct courses taught by **106** instructors.
- More than **113** partnerships were strengthened and sustained through service-learning courses.
- **72,320** service hours were provided by approximately **3,616** Service-Learning students.
- **$14,178** was awarded to support service-learning instructors, including support for **25** projects and **six** faculty members to present service-learning research at professional conferences.
- **42** Service-Learning Teaching Assistants provided support to faculty members teaching designated courses.

“All community-based organizations need additional support to bring about the levels of community change and development they are working toward. The ASPiRE students serve as role models for younger kids in our programs and inspire them to think about going to college themselves. This inspiration has the power to change the life trajectory of many for generations to come. ASPiRE’s ongoing attention to a fully collaborative process, including using partner focus groups for program feedback, helps create a dynamic support system that helps to strengthen some of Richmond’s most vulnerable communities.”

- Ralph Stuckey
  Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority

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

**Neighborhood Outreach**

Led by neighborhood outreach director Tito Luna, the Neighborhood Team is comprised of student leaders and faculty and staff from various departments that are in daily contact with students, such as VCU Police, Greek Life, Recreation & Sports, Off-Campus Student Services, the Wellness Resource Center and the Office of Student Conduct & Academic Integrity.

- **Six** neighborhood liaisons represent VCU’s surrounding neighborhoods and meet regularly with Tito Luna and VCU Police’s external relations officer Greg Felton to discuss issues of concern and opportunities for collaboration. Jointly, Tito and Greg attended more than **55** area neighborhood association meetings in 2015-'16.

- Annually, the surrounding communities, including businesses, are invited to hear an update about what is happening at VCU with respect to academics, collaborative programming and capital improvements. A highlight of the Monroe Park Campus Neighborhood Forum is a Q&A with President Rao.

- VCU hosted **5** community meetings during the 2015-16 school year to provide information and receive feedback on VCU’s new Gladding Residence Center being built on the Monroe Park Campus.

- With the help of more than **125** volunteers, programs like Project Clean & Green Move and Paint the Town Green continue to provide collaboration and service projects, including mulching, weeding, painting and litter removal.

- In Fall 2016, the Carver Adopt-a-Classroom program will be initiated. University departments will sponsor and volunteer in as many as **15** elementary school classrooms, providing literacy and general classroom support. To get involved, e-mail Tito Luna at taluna@vcu.edu.
AmeriCorps

VCU AmeriCorps is one of the largest and longest-running AmeriCorps programs in Virginia. Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015, the VCU AmeriCorps Program has an educational focus and assists out-of-school programs that also serve students who attend Richmond Public Schools.

- 25 members provided 15,551 service hours.
- 270 volunteers recruited.
- 15 events held to encourage student engagement in reading.
- Provided community outreach on 4 national service days in the Richmond community.

VCU AmeriCorps alumni say...

“Being a part of something bigger than myself is something that I have strived for a very long time, and AmeriCorps has given me that opportunity. Making the world a better place is something that truly feels amazing.”
- Mitchell Michalak, VCU AmeriCorps team leader

“Being an AmeriCorps member has made me realize that being a mentor can truly change a child.”
- Chloe Berry, VCU AmeriCorps member

“This AmeriCorps experience will be a part of me forever. Even though there are hours for service, lesson planning, training and additional civic activities, the outcome is completely rewarding. Just stay committed and realize the influence you can have on kids’ lives. I’m extremely thankful for this opportunity!”
- Rial Parker, VCU AmeriCorp Member

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.

- 1,220 volunteer mentors trained across the state in research-based best practices in VMP’s “New Mentor Training.”
- Through a new initiative called the National Mentoring Resource Center, VMP is now the only official technical assistance provider in Virginia and provided 400 hours of customized consultation to mentoring programs to develop program practices in accordance with nationally recognized quality standards.
- 10 programs have completed the quality based mentoring process with VMP’s support and have achieved the distinction of Partner Member.
- 18 AmeriCorps VISTA members placed at mentoring sites across Virginia to build program capacity and recruited more than 500 new mentors.
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.

- 22 agencies and 52 sites completed the Youth Program Quality Intervention process, which helps out-of-school time programs assess operations, create improvement plans and improve quality through staff training and technical assistance, impacting 4,000+ youth.
- The Discovery summer program served 231 middle school youth and partnered with 14 university programs to provide in-depth experiences and skill development opportunities to engage youth in career exploration in the STEAM-H fields.
- 283 youth participated in Lobs & Lessons summer camps and 188 in afterschool programming, supported by 2,325 volunteer hours from 96 volunteers.
- Richmond YPQi held a Ted Style Talk with Dr. Charles Smith, CEO and Co-Founder of the David P. Weikart Center, where over 100 youth development professionals, community and university leaders gathered to learn about Social Emotional Learning.

MFYC Courts Get a Facelift

The MFYC completed a $34,000 refurbishment of its two outdoor hard tennis courts. The project included resurfacing the courts, installing new nets, windscreens and a training backboard, as well as powder-blue QuickStart lines that shrink the size of the playing surface for youth. This facility improvement would not have been possible without a generous facility grant from the United States Tennis Association and partnership with VCU Rec Sports.
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 Across VCU**

This year, 64 CEnR projects were carried out by 26 academic units and departments, with 80 community partners involved at different levels of engagement.

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

**Learning Community Develops Guide on Disseminating Research**

The Faculty Learning Community (FLC) tackled the challenge of how to best share research findings for different audiences so that findings contribute to disciplines and enhance the well-being of the community. The FLC launched a guide, “Dissemination of Research Findings Using Web-Based Platforms,” which is intended to assist faculty before they begin a community-engaged research project.

The FLC is in partnership with VCU Libraries and ALT Lab. View the guide at guides.library.vcu.edu/dissemination.

**CEnR UROP Fellowships**

For the third 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:**

- Anthony Kormos, Departments of Information Systems and Economics, with Dr. Elena Olson, Department of Information Systems: Early Computing Education Competition.
- Colleen Parker, School of Social Work, with Dr. Shelby McDonald, School of Social Work: A mixed-methods study to inform a coordinated community response to the intersection of interpersonal and animal-directed violence.
- Katharine Pyle, Public Relations, with Dr. Rowena Briones, Robertson School of Media and Culture: Striving Toward Evidence-Based Social Media Communication: An Exploration of Enhancing the Red Flag Campaign.

**Scholarship**

Faculty and staff in the Office of Community-Engaged Research published four journal articles; three technical reports/white papers; nine refereed presentations at conferences and 14 invited presentations. View them at scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cer.

**VCU Joins Anchor Dashboard Learning Cohort**

The Division of Community Engagement and the Office of Planning and Decision Support have led the university in joining the Anchor Dashboard Learning Cohort.

The mission of the cohort is to apply long-term, place-based economic power, in combination with human and intellectual resources, to better the welfare of surrounding communities over time, with a particular focus on communities of moderate and limited incomes.

“In many ways, this initiative tells the story of the partnerships that exist among the VCU and Richmond communities,” said Shannon Cribbs, director of planning and organizational excellence in the office of Planning and Decision Support. “Without a doubt, VCU and the Richmond community serve each other in substantive and meaningful ways. The key to this initiative is that it allows us to leverage our collective assets in making Richmond an even better place to grow, live and work.”
CMST 691 Collaborative Curiosity

Students, faculty and community members from VCU, Richmond and around the globe learned about community-engaged research through a connected learning course held May 23 to July 18.

360 people subscribed to the course, and 8 students registered for academic credit. 206 people participated via #CuriousCoLab on Twitter with 2,964 tweets.

For more information, visit community.vcu.edu.

CEnR Video Shorts

59 video shorts organized hour-long video hangouts from the previous year's course activities into quickly digestible and shareable clips that answer questions about community-engaged research. View the playlist at youtube.com/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.

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**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**

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