

**Virginia Commonwealth University
Community Engagement Grant Recipients
2008-2009**

Enhancing Self-Regulation and Social Competence in Head Start Children

Community Partner: VCU Head Start
Primary VCU Contact: Stacey Reynolds, PhD, OTR/L, Occupational Therapy
School of Allied Health Professions
VCU Partners: Department of Psychology, School of Social Work

The team will provide training to families, children, and teachers in the VCU Head Start program to enhance self-regulation skills and improve social competence in at-risk preschoolers. The project team will develop and test a model interdisciplinary program and will collect data on prevalence of social-emotional difficulties in these children.

ECO-Monitoring: Ecological Connections, Observation, Mentoring

Community Partners: VDGIF, Charles City County Public Schools
Primary VCU Contact: Cathy Vivarette, PhD, Center for Environmental Studies
VCU Partners: Center for Life Sciences Education, Departments of Biology and Chemistry,
School of Medicine, Pathology

Based on a successful model started at the University of North Carolina, the Center for Environmental Studies will lead a partnership between VCU Life Sciences units, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Charles City County Public Schools. This pilot project will enhance scientific inquiry and critical thinking skills for middle and high school students by creating a system to monitor box turtles. Students will serve as citizen scientists, along with VCU students and faculty, Master Naturalists and state scientists. Long-term goals include expanding the program statewide.

Education and Care of Patients with Hypertension and Diabetes in a Free Clinic

Community Partner: Richmond Area High Blood Pressure Center
Primary VCU Contact: Sallie Mayer, PharmD, MBA, BCPS, School of Pharmacy and Ambulatory
Care Center Internal Medicine Pharmacy Services Clinic
VCU Partners: MCV Women's Health Care, VCU Medical Center, VCUHS Community Care
Programs

The project team will expand the educational initiatives and clinical care at the Richmond Area High Blood Pressure Center to include high-risk patients with both hypertension and diabetes. Faculty, students, and residents will work together to develop and implement self-management skills and nutrition education programs for patients and RAHBPC clinic staff. Faculty will also pilot a model in which pharmacists provide more extensive patient care and consultation in the free clinic setting.

Peep This: Using Documentary Filmmaking to Engage African American Male Adolescents Living in High Risk Urban Neighborhoods

Community Partner: Family Resource Center
Primary VCU Contact: Shawn Utsey, PhD, Department of African American Studies
College of Humanities and Sciences
VCU Partners: School of the Arts, Department of Photography and Film, Media, Arts, and Text Program

The project team will create and implement a program to engage male adolescents in Richmond's East End through the practice of documentary filmmaking. The project provides mentoring by VCUarts and MATX students, opportunities for self-expression, exposure to VCU campus, and the development of leadership and team-building skills. The documentary films will be relevant to Richmond history and in keeping with Virginia Standards of Learning grade level topics.

Enhancing Biotechnology and Forensic Sciences Instruction in the K-12 Classroom

Community Partners: Richmond Public Schools, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College, Virginia Biotechnology Research Park, VA Department of Forensic Sciences
Primary VCU Contact: William Eggleston, PhD, Department of Forensic Sciences, College of Humanities and Sciences
VCU Partners: Department of Biology, Center for Life Sciences Education

The team will create continuing education workshops for middle school high school teachers. Through the partnership, local teachers will have access to supplies, equipment loans, model lesson plans, and training videos. A cadre of experienced students and teachers will serve as mentors to assist with the integration of the training and materials into the classroom to meet SOL and other teaching goals.

VCU Medical Reserve Corps Pilot Project

Community Partners: City of Richmond Office of Emergency Management, Richmond City Health District, Virginia Department of Health, Central Virginia Planning Agency
Primary VCU Contact: Cheryl Chesney-Walker, MEd, Division of Health Careers/Education and Special Services for Students, VCUHS
VCU Partners: Department of Emergency Medicine

The project team will perform a needs assessment and develop a marketing plan to create a Medical Reserve Corps model at VCU. The Richmond Medical Reserve Corps, a network of volunteers who support existing health agencies, will be strengthened by the organization and leadership of VCU faculty, staff, and students as a subset of a regional effort for disaster preparedness. Success of a pilot program will contribute to a reduction of issues that complicate effective response of authorities during regional emergencies.

VCU Extends Helping Hands

Community Partners: St. Andrew's School, Friends Association for Children
Primary VCU Contact: Donna Dockery, PhD, Counselor Education, School of Education
VCU Partners: Department of Psychology, School of Social Work, Counselor Education
Student Networking Association

An expansion of a previously funded CCE project, faculty and students from Counselor Education, CESNA, Psychology, and Social Work will offer individual and group counseling to St. Andrew's School in Oregon Hill. The teams will work to meet the educational, social, and behavioral needs of at-risk children in grade PK-8 at both St. Andrew's and Friends Association.

Cosby High School – Health Sciences Exploration II

Community Partners: Cosby High School Health Sciences Specialty Center
Virginia Mentoring Partnership
Primary VCU Contact: Seth Leibowitz, EdD, Pre-Health Sciences and Pre-Law Advising, University College
VCU Partners: VCU Health System, Center for Health Disparities, Office of Student Outreach Programs School of Medicine,
Admissions offices from MCV campus programs

Team partners from the VCU Health System and the University College will expand the one-credit course offered to more students enrolled in the Cosby High School Health Sciences Specialty Center. Over the course of one semester, students will learn about health sciences careers through expert lectures, service activities, on campus lab experiences and through mentorships with current VCU pre-health sciences students. Cosby students can make informed choices about health careers that they intend to pursue and understand what activities and study are required for success in those careers.