

## **Food Landscapes**

Community Partners: The Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC); Transition Day Support Services

Primary VCU Contact: Melanie Buffington, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Art Education

VCU Partners: School of the Arts, Department of Art Education; School of Social Work

According to the USDA, the area served by the NRC is a food desert due to a scarcity of local grocery stores and restaurants. To educate NRC youth from this community about proper food acquisition and preparation, youth participants will learn cooking techniques and subsequently plan and teach cooking lessons to adults with disabilities. Additionally youth will conduct tours for the adults of food related art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, creating community engagement opportunities for adults at Transition Day Support Services.

## **A Community Partnership to Reduce Non-Emergent, Primary Care Treatable, or Avoidable Emergency Department (ED) Use Among the Indigent Uninsured Population in Metropolitan Richmond, Virginia**

Community Partner: CrossOver Health Care Ministry; Community Education Collaborative including Richmond Ambulance Authority, Bon Secours, Daily Planet, Fan Free Clinic, Richmond Blood Pressure Center, Local Faith Based Organizations and Local Health Departments

Primary VCU Contact: Barbara Harding, RN, BAN, CCM, PAHM, Program Director, Central Virginia Care Connection for Children and VCU Department of Pediatrics

VCU Partners: School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine; School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Health Administration; VCU Health System, Emergency Department & Patient Care Services; VCU Health System, Community Relations, Community Outreach, Virginia Coordinated Care

This partnership will work to educate the metropolitan Richmond community about the appropriate use of the ED and alternative resources for care of ambulatory sensitive diagnosis. VCU students, with the guidance of the community partners, will design and develop a Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle, identifying communities with the highest incidence of inappropriate ED use. Students will then develop a community education plan to include outreach activities, such as public service messages to be distributed via radio and print media.

## **Production and Distribution of a Documentary Film to Inform Parents, Service Providers and Students about Down Syndrome**

Community Partner: Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond

Primary VCU Contact: Colleen Jackson-Cook, Ph.D., Professor of Pathology, Director of Cytogenetics Laboratory

VCU Partners: School of Medicine, Dept. of Pathology, Department of Human & Molecular Genetics; School of Nursing; School of Arts, Department of Photography & Film; VCU Health System, Language Services

To enhance their quality of life, people with Down syndrome, as well as their family members and service providers, must have access to up-to-date information and health care/educational programs. This collaborative project will develop a documentary that will illustrate the spectrum of abilities seen in people with Down syndrome and provide answers to questions regarding their needs and aspirations for a diverse group of community members, including parents, service providers, and VCU trainees who will be future leaders in service fields.

## **VSU-VCU Partnership to Promote Literacy for Impoverished Linguistically-Challenged Youth in Virginia**

Community Partners: Virginia State University, Department of Teaching & Learning; 1021 Halifax Corporation  
Primary VCU Contact: Kelli Garry, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy, School of Allied Health Professions

VCU Partners: School of Allied Health Professions, Department of Occupational Therapy; School of Education, Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center

High rates of illiteracy among impoverished youth increase the probability of dropouts, future unemployment and continued poverty. Petersburg has one of the highest child poverty rates in the Commonwealth at approximately 40%. This project will establish a literacy center to provide literacy skills assistance to children in third to fifth grade in a high-poverty Petersburg community. Students will be enrolled in an after school program that will pilot an assessment and training component using iPad Minis to increase vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. This component will then be developed into a sustainable model that can be transferred to other low-income communities.

## **HIPHOP (Health Initiatives by student Professionals for HOmeless Persons)**

Community Partner: The Daily Planet, Inc.

Primary VCU Contact: Jean-Venable Goode, Pharm. D., BCPS, FAPhA, FCCP, Professor and Director of Community Pharmacy Practice and Residency Program

VCU Partners: School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science; School of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine; School of Nursing

The homeless population is at an increased risk of poor health outcomes due to lack of access to adequate primary care, increased prevalence of substance abuse, and mental health issues. This project will create an inter-professional education campaign and outreach program to promote healthy lifestyles for homeless persons at two Daily Planet locations (Medical Respite and Conrad Center). These services will include health screenings, medication management and reconciliation, and education about healthy living with a different focus each month.

## **Enhancing Student Self-Efficacy through STEM After School Enrichment**

Community Partner: The Mary and Frances Youth Center

Primary VCU Contact: Quentin Alexander, Ph. D., Assistant Professor, Department of Counselor Education

VCU Partners: School of Education, Dept. of Counselor Education, Center for School Community Collaboration

This project will address self-efficacy and school attitudes of Carver Elementary students through a weekly after school program that will provide academic enrichment through small group STEM instruction in combination with weekly processing groups. The project will target group processing and self-efficacy skills to improve students' overall school experience.