VCU Community Engagement Institute 2018

Tuesday, May 15

8:00 am  Registration, Coffee, & Mingling
8:15 am  Welcome Remarks
8:30 am  Keynote Address
  Susan Sekerke, Advancement Coordinator, Daily Planet Health Services
  Community-academic partnerships, done well, can move the needle on society’s most challenging issues.
  For more than 50 years, the Daily Planet has confronted homelessness and healthcare access in Richmond.
  This keynote address will discuss the changing nature of homelessness and healthcare over the past half-century and how the Daily Planet has partnered with VCU to respond to these critical needs. Attendees will learn about the evolving relationship between VCU and the Daily Planet, considering the benefits and challenges of this ongoing partnership.

9:30 am  BREAK

9:45 am  21st Century Community Engagement
  Jennifer Early, Doctoral Candidate, MSHA, RN, Director, Community-engaged Research
  The higher education landscape is changing, and universities of the future may bear little resemblance to the institutions that have existed for the past 100 years. This workshop will help participants understand the intersections between a changing higher education landscape and community engagement. Participants will explore new models for organizing academic work (i.e., teaching, research, and service) in ways that promote student success and address community-identified needs.

11:15 am  *Community-Academic Partnership Spotlight:
  Richmond Urban Heat Island Consortium

11:30 am  LUNCH (on your own)

12:30 pm  Refocus & Reflect

12:45 pm  Intro to Community-Engaged Research and Service Learning
  Katie Elliott, MA, Associate director, Service-Learning
  Jennifer Early, Doctoral Candidate, MSHA, RN, Director, Community-engaged Research
  The purpose of this workshop is to provide participants with an introduction of community-engaged research (CEnR) and service learning (SL) at VCU. Academics will be encouraged to think of the 3 traditional aspects of academic work (research, teaching, and service) as doors that they can open to collaborate with community partners in an integrated portfolio of scholarship. Community partners will be encouraged to consider how community initiatives align with academic aspects of research, teaching, and service.

2:15 pm  *Community-Academic Partnership Spotlight:
  Building on Sacred Ground

2:30 pm  REFRESHMENT BREAK

2:45 pm  Walking The Talk
  Engaging Richmond
  This workshop reviews best practices of communicating about the work of community-academic partnerships. Participants will hear real world examples of how VCU has broadly communicated engaged work on national and local levels.

4:15 pm  Community-Engaged Research/Service Learning Breakout
  This session offers participants the opportunity to receive shoulder-to-shoulder guidance from community-engaged scholars right here at VCU

5:00 pm  Adjourn

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Wednesday, May 16

8:00 am  **Registration, Coffee, & Mingling**

8:15 am  **Community-Engaged Scholarship & Student Learning Lightning Talks**
       Six Community Engagement Scholars from VCU give 3-minute "lightning talks" about aspects of community engagement and share their experiences on how the community has enhanced their teaching and scholarship.

8:30 am  **Inclusive Collaboration**
       Jennifer Early, Doctoral Candidate, MSHA, RN, Director, Community-engaged Research
       This workshop introduces foundational concepts related to diversity and inclusion in community-academic engagement and applies these concepts to the early stages of initiating and stewarding partnerships for community-engaged teaching and research.

10:30 am  **BREAK**

10:45 am  **Initiating & Sustaining Community-Academic Partnerships**
       Erin Burke Brown, Ph.D., Director, ASpiRE
       This workshop presents “5 Simple Steps” for initiating and sustaining community-academic partnerships. Participants will move through the 5 steps to consider the unique aspects of community-academic partnerships, the importance of deliberate and intentional conversations to find mutual benefit, and knowing when/if to terminate the partnership.

12:15 pm  **LUNCH** (on your own)

1:15 pm  **Refocus & Reflect**

1:30 pm  **Community-Academic Partnership Spotlights:**
       Coming soon!

2:15 pm  **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

2:30 pm  **Community Engagement Hackathon**
       VCU da Vinci Center for Innovation
       As a final wrap-up we will “hack” traditional research and teaching projects to become more community-engaged. This hands-on workshop will expose participants to a framework of varying intentions for community engagement as well as principles of human-centered design and iterative design processes. Participants will leave with concrete ideas, inspired to take action.

5:00 pm  **Adjourn**

*Community-Academic Partnership Spotlights throughout the event give participants opportunities to hear about the exciting work being done in and around Richmond by community-academic partners.
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Keynote

Susan Sekerke
A native of Richmond and two time graduate of VCU, Susan Sekerke has seen firsthand the issues facing those who are homeless. After earning her B.S. in Public Relations she spent five years working for local marketing agencies. She has worked in homeless services system for 17 years and uses her marketing and PR skills to change how we talk about the issue of homelessness. She earned her master’s in Public Administration in 2010 from VCU and is a graduate of Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Program (ENLP). She continues her work with Daily Planet Health Services as its advancement coordinator. In this position she works to help advance the organization’s mission and those it serves.

Spotlights

Community-Academic Partnership: Richmond Urban Heat Island Consortium
Urban heat islands are a phenomenon where drastic temperature variations can be found in urban areas. To identify localized temperatures in Richmond, GPS-linked thermocouples were developed and deployed by teams of volunteers during a heat wave in Summer 2017. In addition to identifying specific heat islands in Richmond, this project is being extended to consider social/health impacts and possible interventions to mitigate elevated temperatures.

VCU
Dr. Stephen S. Fong is an associate professor in Chemical and Life Science Engineering who received his Ph.D. in Bioengineering from UC-San Diego. He supervises the Systems Biological Engineering Lab that focuses on metabolic engineering of microorganisms and SustainLab that focuses on community-oriented sustainability problems.

Community Partner
Dr. Jeremy S. Hoffman is a Climate and Earth Science Specialist at the Science Museum of Virginia who received his Ph.D. in Geology from Oregon State University with a specialization in paleoclimatology. In his role at the SMV, Dr. Hoffman develops educational material, fosters scientific communication, and builds research collaborations. Dr. Hoffman is the central organizer of the Richmond Urban Heat Island Consortium.

Community-Academic Partnership: Building on Sacred Ground
This project is a collaboration between VCU faculty members Melanie Buffington, Brandi Summers and Nicole Myers Turner in partnership with the Shockoe Bottom Center for Historic Reclamation (SBCHR), headed by Ana Edwards, to develop a community-centered research agenda around slavery, memory and the built environment. The partnership draws on the community organizing base of the SBCHR—the Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project and its fourteen years of activism around memorializing black history in Richmond, and preserving the African Burial Ground. In particular, Building on Sacred Ground is aimed at creating a community-based, community-originated, and community-focused historical research project about the history of race, difference, and slavery in Richmond. Our aim is to have frank discussions about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the production of history as we seek to bridge ties between campus and city members while generating ideas for community building.
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Community-Academic Partnership: Building on Sacred Ground (cont.)

VCU
Dr. Brandi Summers is an assistant professor of African American Studies and Associate Executive Director of the Institute for Inclusion, Inquiry and Innovation (iCubed) at VCU. She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Dr. Summers’ research and teaching interests focus on race, gender, urban aesthetics, fashion, media studies, and visual culture. Her forthcoming book project, *Black in Place: The Spatial Aesthetics of Race in a Post-Chocolate City*, explores the way that competing notions of blackness structure efforts to raise capital and develop land in Washington, D.C. Her research has been supported by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and the Social Science Research Council, among others.

Community Partner
Ana Edwards holds a bachelor’s degree in Visual Arts from California State Polytechnic University and is currently working on her master’s degree in history at Virginia Commonwealth University. Edwards is chair of the Sacred Ground Historical Reclamation Project, a 2004 initiative of the Defenders for Freedom, Justice and Equality, a Richmond-based social justice organization. The Defenders’ Sacred Ground Project is currently engaged in the community struggle to preserve historic Shockoe Bottom with a 9-acre memorial park, and in 2013 was named Peacemaker of the Year by the Richmond Peace Education Center for these efforts. In 2015 Ana was selected to be The Valentine History Maker Honoree for Improving Social Justice.

**VCU Presenters**

Engaging Richmond
Engaging Richmond is a partnership between community members and researchers from VCU and is based in Richmond’s East End. Since the project’s inception in 2011, the members of the Engaging Richmond team have used mixed-methods research to explore the social and environmental factors that influence health.

VCU da Vinci Center for Innovation
A collaboration of VCU’s Schools of the Arts, Business, Engineering and College of Humanities and Sciences, the VCU da Vinci Center is a unique collegiate model that advances innovation and entrepreneurship through cross-disciplinary collaboration.