VCU Community Engagement

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)

12:00 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
  Tracey Gendron, MS, PhD
  The workshop is to provides 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.
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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

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 exposes participants to the VCU’s historical presence in Richmond. It introduces foundational concepts of institutional history and its role in diversity and inclusion in community-academic engagement.

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.
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12:15 pm  LUNCH (on your own)
1:15 pm    Refocus & Reflect
1:30 pm    *Community-Academic Partnership Spotlights:
            The Sidekick Manifesto
            Performing Statistics
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.
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.

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 paleoclimateology. 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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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.

Performing Statistics
The students in VCU ARTE 600/800 collaborated with ART180's program director, Kate Duffy, to develop a "Field Guide" of the event, which included exhibits of 14 different ART 180 programs' youth-created artwork. The Field Guides were designed to inform visitors about the programs, help them theorize guiding questions to understand better the concepts of the work, and to engage with the youth about their work. Students also volunteered to "docent" the event using the Field Guides.

VCU
Dr. Courtnie Wolfgang is an assistant professor in the Department of Art Education at Virginia Commonwealth University and a member of the VCU Open Minds faculty. Her research foci include intersections of post-structural, post/feminist, and queer theories with arts pedagogies, school and community teaching, and justice-oriented Arts Education practices. Recent publication sites include Visual Arts Research, Studies in Art Education, The Journal of Social Theory in Art Education, and the Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education. Ongoing projects include collaborative arts-based workshops with adolescent girls in juvenile arbitration and development of arts courses for incarcerated adults at the city jail in Richmond, Virginia, and a school curriculum project aimed at reducing harm related to the school to confinement pipeline.

Community Partner
ART 180 gives young people ages 8-18 living in challenging circumstances the chance to express themselves through art, and to share their stories with others. For 20 years, ART 180 has served Greater Richmond by offering outlets in creative expression for young people and communities that face poverty, the threat of violent crime, substance abuse and other challenges. Our programs complement the services provided by other agencies to address these challenges, and our work provides a vital service by addressing the lack of quality after-school programs for youth in our community.
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The Really BIG Show (April 28) brings together people from throughout the city to experience artwork created by young people in our spring programs at a dozen ART 180 sites, and celebrate their creativity. The event is free and open to the public and includes live performances, art activities, games, food trucks and more.

The SideKick Manifesto
Shawn Humphrey is the founder of IMAGINE Social Good, the Two Dollar Challenge, the Month of Microfinance, and La Ceiba Microfinance. His blog explores issues facing social innovators and entrepreneurs. He challenges the conventional wisdom of social entrepreneurialism with his Do’s and Don’ts for Do-Gooders and motivates change makers with his Half-time Speeches. At the core of Shawn’s philosophy is a unique pedagogy that’s designed to rewild his students and transform them into better change-makers.

Invited 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.

Tracey Gendron, MS, PhD
Tracey Gendron is an Associate Professor and Vice-Chair of the Department of Gerontology in the School of Allied Health Professions at Virginia Commonwealth University. Tracey has a Master’s of Science in Gerontology, a Master's of Science in Psychology and a PhD in Developmental Psychology. She teaches service-based courses including grant writing, research methods and biology of aging. Tracey takes an all-inclusive approach to teaching about aging, particularly highlighting those understudied and underrepresented groups that are at increased risk of negative health outcomes and discrimination. Her research is focused on the language, expression and perpetuation of ageism, aging, anxiety, and gerontophobia. Her personal and professional goal is to raise awareness of how deeply embedded ageism is within all cultures and settings.