

Community Engagement Grant Recipients

2007-2018



VCU

Community Engagement

Table of Contents

Purpose	5
2007-2008 Recipients	6
Environmental Festivals: Opportunities for Engaging our Citizens in Watershed Sustainability	6
VCU Lends Helping Hands to Friends	6
ECO-Monitoring: Ecology, Chemistry, Observation, Mentoring.....	6
Cosby High School/VCU Partnership	6
Chandler Middle School Arts Center Project.....	7
VCU Community Workforce Investment Project	7
Science Connection: A VCU—St. Andrew’s School Partnership.....	7
VCU Online GED	7
2008-2009 Recipients	8
Enhancing Self-Regulation and Social Competence in Head Start Children.....	8
ECO-Monitoring: Ecological Connections, Observation, Mentoring.....	8
Education and Care of Patients with Hypertension and Diabetes in a Free Clinic.....	8
Peep This: Using Documentary Filmmaking to Engage African American Male Adolescents Living in High Risk Urban Neighborhoods	8
Enhancing Biotechnology and Forensic Sciences Instruction in the K-12 Classroom....	9
VCU Medical Reserve Corps Pilot Project	9
VCU Extends Helping Hands	9
Cosby High School – Health Sciences Exploration II	9
2009-2010 Recipients	10
iCare CPR Online.....	10
Improving the Quality of Mental Healthcare for Richmond’s Youth	10
Caregiver Support Program	10
Peep This Film Camp	10
Development of a Chronic Care Model in an Underserved Population.....	10
Our Park, Our Environment	10
Diffusion Theory to Promote CARE in a Homeless Population.....	11
It’s Time to Press Play	11
2010-2011 Recipients	11
Team Warbler: From Chesapeake Bay to Panama Bay and Back – Cross Cultural Connections Supporting Sustainable Communities.....	11
Improving Access and Quality of Care for the Medically Underserved through the Interdisciplinary Enhanced Teaching Model.....	11
TAPA Model: Literacy and Language Training for Adult Immigrant Learners from Non-literate Societies	11
Richmond Chapter of Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment.....	12
Multiple Family Group Intervention for Middle School Transition	12
Vernal Pools and the Human Footprint.....	12

Una Vida Sana: Assessing and Improving the Health Status of Richmond’s Hispanic Community through Health Professional Student Service Learning	12
2011-2012 Recipients	12
Traumatic Brain Injury Family Support: A Multi-Family Model	12
Open Minds.....	13
Dental Fair for Native Americans in Virginia.....	13
ArtSmarts: An Intensive, SOL-Integrated Art Program for Richmond Public Schools.....	13
Assessing the Needs of the Asian-American Community in Richmond	13
Pixie’s Pen Pals: A Program for Virginia’s Inmates	13
2012-2013 Recipients	13
Animal-Assisted Therapy for Children with Autism	13
Community Health and Wellness Program for Older Adults	14
CMoR Learning: Developing Interdisciplinary Partnerships for an Inclusive Learning Community	14
Barriers and Facilitators to Breastfeeding among Low-Income African-American Women.....	14
VCU – Richmond Collaborative Bicyclists Education: A Comparison of Formal Course and Independent Training	14
Middle of Broad + Storefront = MoBS.....	14
Mosby Leadership Program	15
2013-2014 Recipients	15
Food Landscapes.....	15
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.....	15
Production and Distribution of a Documentary Film to Inform Parents, Service Providers and Students about Down Syndrome.....	15
VSU-VCU Partnership to Promote Literacy for Impoverished Linguistically-Challenged Youth in Virginia	16
HIPHOP (Health Initiatives by student Professionals for HOMEless Persons).....	16
Enhancing Student Self-Efficacy through STEM After School Enrichment	16
2014-2015 Recipients	16
“Agri-Culture”: Growing Food and Community with Richmond Refugees.....	16
Beautiful RVA Partnership: Co-creating Livability in Richmond Communities	17
Crossing the River: Bridging the Education Gap – Enhancing the First Spanish GED Preparation Program in Richmond	17
Expanding Trauma-Informed Intervention for Preschoolers: An Inter-Disciplinary Best Practice Approach	17
Social Practice in the Museum: A Service-Learning Course for VCU Students and Young People in the Museum	17
A Welcoming Richmond	18
2015-2016 Recipients	18
A CBPR Evaluation of Mommies, Babies, Bellies & Daddies – the ABC’s of	

Breastfeeding.....	18
Expanding Healthy Relationships in Central Virginia	18
Monroe Park Campus Garden	19
PALETTE in Motion.....	19
\$WAGIFY: Savings and Wealth as Goals in African American Youth	19
The Red Flag Campaign: Promoting Prevention through Program Messaging Evaluation	19
2016-2017 Recipients	20
Building a Better Binford: VCU Art of Nursing Goes to School	20
MITI Meals: A Hands-On Approach to Nourishing Families	20
STEM Exploration and Enrichment Academy.....	20
Strengthening a Community-Engaged Research Partnership to Promote Diabetes Management in Richmond.....	20
Training Latino Residents in Mental Health First Aid.....	21
2016-2017 Community-Engaged Research Partnership Development Grant Recipient ..	21
Designing a Place to Be: A University-Community Partnership for Addressing the Needs of Adults with Autism	21
2017-2018 Community Engagement Grant Recipients	21
VCU Sculpture Outreach Program	21
Building Interactive Environments for Older Adults with Autism that Promote Stress Management and Engagement.....	21
An Interprofessional Intervention with Behavioral Health and Pharmacy Trainees to Reduce Smoking Rates in the Latino Population of a Free Health Clinic in Richmond.....	21
Touching the Past: Enhancing Accessibility for Richmond’s Visually Impaired Community and Others to Virginia’s Heritage through 3D Printing.....	22
2017-2018 Community-Engaged Research Partnership Development Grant Recipients	22
Asset-Based Community Development: A Model for Community Strengthening	22
Building on Sacred Ground: The Art of Remembrance	22
Community Forestry Project	23

Purpose

With support from the Offices of the Provost and the Vice Provost for Health Sciences, the Council for Community Engagement provides grants up to \$20,000 to support interdisciplinary projects that will enhance and increase university engagement to meet community-identified needs in the greater Richmond community and will contribute to the research and teaching of VCU units. Visit community.vcu.edu to learn more.

2007-2008 Recipients

Environmental Festivals: Opportunities for Engaging our Citizens in Watershed Sustainability

Community Partner: Miles J. Jones Elementary School
Other VCU Partner: Department of Geography, Department of Biology

To help Richmond citizens who live in the Reedy Creek watershed develop a lifelong commitment to environmental protection and take ownership for the health of the creek, we will design, promote and stage two environmental festivals that will engage Reedy Creek's community in learning about its wetlands and riparian ecosystem. Participation by community members will hopefully blossom into a life-long commitment to good stewardship of the environment. The proposed environmental festivals will be family and community oriented, will provide a safe, supervised learning environment, and will use engaged learning as the tool for helping participants to understand environmental themes in an outdoor, real-world setting that is located close their homes. Miles J. Jones Elementary School will be our community partner in this effort.

VCU Lends Helping Hands to Friends

Community Partner: Friends Association for Children
VCU Partners: Department of Counselor Education, School of Social Work, CESNA

Students from Counselor Education and the School of Social Work will collaborate with Friends Association for Children in a unique Community Engagement Partnership. Individual and group counseling and classroom interventions will be offered to foster academic, behavioral and social development for youth and families participating in FRIENDS preschool, school age and adult programs. Working with children and families from low to moderate socioeconomic backgrounds will provide the university students with opportunities to enhance their multicultural awareness, skills and competence while collaborating across professional disciplines.

ECO-Monitoring: Ecology, Chemistry, Observation, Mentoring

Community Partner: Charles City County Public Schools
VCU Partners: Center for Environmental Studies, School of Education, Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Pathology

This project represents a collaborative effort between VCU's Life Sciences, Chemistry, Biology and Pathology Departments and the Charles City County Public Schools. We hope to enhance science education opportunities, foster scientific inquiry and awareness, and promote environmental stewardship in Charles City County students by developing an environmental monitoring regime that investigates the relationship between the local landscape variation, mercury contamination, and amphibian populations. Through mentorship and field experiences, they will explore how water quality in Charles City County may affect local wildlife and human communities, as well as the impact of local ecosystem health on regional (e.g. air quality in the mid-Atlantic) and global (e.g. amphibian declines) systems.

Cosby High School/VCU Partnership

Community Partners: Cosby High School Health Sciences Specialty Center, Virginia Mentoring Partnership
VCU Partners: School of Medicine, Center for Health Disparities

For our project we will be teaching a health careers exploration course in the Cosby High School Health Sciences Specialty Center in spring 2008. We plan to create two service learning courses, one allowing the high school students to explore health careers through a

range of presentations, service activities, and lab experiences on our MCV campus. The other course will give upper-level pre-health students at VCU an opportunity to serve as mentors to the high school students while they go through the career exploration process.

Chandler Middle School Arts Center Project

Community Partner: Chandler Middle School

VCU Partners: Department of Art Education, Department of Interior Design

During the Spring of 2007, the VCU Department of Art Education and Chandler Middle School began a partnership that paired in service art education students with reading classes in order to support reading skills through art lessons. Through the support of the grant, this partnership will continue to grow as students and faculty in the VCU Department of Interior Design work with Chandler Middle School to develop and build a permanent exhibition space in the school cafeteria for display of the art works created by Chandler students. The goal of these partnerships is to improve the learning environment for students and faculty at Chandler Middle School while providing real life experiences to our students within the Department of Art Education and the Department of Interior Design.

VCU Community Workforce Investment Project

Community Partner: Richmond Career Advancement Center

VCU Partners: School of Social Work, Workforce Development, Human Resources

The Community Workforce Investment Project (CWIP), a collaboration the School of Social Work and the VCU Health System in partnership with the Richmond Career Advancement Center, will involve the provision of pre-employment counseling and remedial skills development, on-the-job training, mentoring, and other supportive services to facilitate community residents in obtaining entry-level jobs with the Health System, maintaining their employment, and advancing to higher-paying positions. The project will address two related needs in Richmond: (1) high rates of joblessness and poverty among low-skilled City residents, and (2) the existing and growing shortage of workers prepared to obtain employment in the health care industry.

Science Connection: A VCU—St. Andrew's School Partnership

Community Partner: St. Andrew's School

VCU Partners: Department of Teaching and Learning, Physics, Life Sciences

Science Connection: A VCU/St. Andrew's School Partnership" will be a year-long after-school and professional development science program for students and faculty at St. Andrew's School. The goal of the program is to increase elementary students' interest and positive attitudes towards science through exposure to engaging instructional experiences and interactions with teachers who have higher pedagogical content knowledge. Faculty in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Physics and VCU Life Sciences will train teams of pre-service elementary teachers and science content majors to deliver 12 hands-on science lessons. These faculty members will also conduct three professional development workshops for all teachers at the school. A secondary goal relative to the VCU students who will be delivering the lessons is to increase the pre-service elementary teachers' interaction with diverse students and science content.

VCU Online GED

Community Partner: Adult Career Development Center

VCU Partners: School of Education, Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, Honors College

VCU Online GED seeks to develop a comprehensive educational program that will match

struggling high school students with successful VCU college student role models, increase GED certifications for at-risk 16- to 19-year-old students, and introduce innovative web-based instruction methods to improve retention at Richmond's alternative high school. This proposed collaboration between the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center (VALRC) at VCU's School of Education, the Honors College at VCU, and Richmond Public Schools' Adult Career Development Center (ACDC), will provide consistent support and one-on-one mentoring for at-risk alternative education students in order to create an alternative solution to traditional instructional methods. Through VCU Online GED, a pilot group of 16- to 19-year-old students from Richmond Public Schools' ACDC alternative high school will receive peer counseling from VCU Honors College students; facilitated computer-mediated learning through the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center's web-based eLearnVA initiative; and ongoing classroom support and assessments from ACDC.

2008-2009 Recipients

Enhancing Self-Regulation and Social Competence in Head Start Children

Community Partner: VCU Head Start

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 Partner: VDGIF, Charles City County Public Schools

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

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

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

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

VCU Partner: 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

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

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.

2009-2010 Recipients

ICare CPR Online

Community Partner: Henrico County Public Schools

VCU Partners: Department of Anesthesia, Department of Emergency Medicine, Department of Surgery, School of Medicine

The team will use an online and videoconferencing program to deliver CPR training and certification to high school students and their families in Henrico County through Online PE.

Improving the Quality of Mental Healthcare for Richmond's Youth

Community Partner: Childsavers

VCU Partners: Virginia Treatment Center for Children, Department of Psychology, School of Social Work

The team will develop an interdisciplinary mental health program to increase service capacity, improve service delivery, and reduce treatment drop-out for adolescent clients at Childsavers.

Caregiver Support Program

Community Partner: A Grace Place

VCU Partners: Departments of Gerontology and Occupational Therapy

The pilot project will create a training curriculum and resource manual for caregivers in need of support. Students will follow-up by phone to monitor stress in providing care for aging family members who are day clients at A Grace Place.

Peep This Film Camp

Community Partner: East District Family Resource Center

VCU Partners: Department of African American Studies, Department of Photography and Film, the Media, Arts, and Text (MATX) Program, Department of English

Adolescent boys from Richmond's East End will create documentary films relevant to Richmond history and their own community experiences. VCU students from the Afrikana student organization and the MATX will serve as mentors for these Family Resource Center clients.

Development of a Chronic Care Model in an Underserved Population

Community Partner: Cross-Over Health Center

VCU Partners: School of Pharmacy, Department of Internal Medicine, VCUHS

Students and clinicians will develop and measure a chronic disease management model for the Cross-Over Health Center to improve care and treatment of diabetic patients.

Our Park, Our Environment

Community Partners: Powhatan Public Schools, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA Department of Environmental Quality

VCU Partners: Department of Pathology, Department of Biology, Center for Life Sciences Education

High school students will be involved in the development and implementation of a long-term data collection and monitoring system prior to the opening of a new state park in Powhatan County.

Diffusion Theory to Promote CARE in a Homeless Population

Community Partner: Daily Planet

VCU Partners: School of Pharmacy, Department of Psychology, School of Social Work

The project will implement and test the effectiveness of an innovative bracelet storage device to increase the medication reconciliation for a homeless, uninsured, and underinsured population.

It's Time to Press Play

Community Partners: Richmond Public Schools, Hanover Public Schools

VCU Partners: Department of Computer Science, EDEN (Enhancing Diversity in Engineering Nucleus), Lobs & Lessons (Mary and Frances Youth Center), Division of Community Engagement

The team will develop and implement a middle school summer camp at the Mary and Frances Youth Center that uses video game programming to stimulate an interest in math and science, while also offering on-site tennis and life skills activities.

2010-2011 Recipients

Team Warbler: From Chesapeake Bay to Panama Bay and Back – Cross Cultural Connections Supporting Sustainable Communities

Community Partner: National Audubon Society and Panama Audubon Society

VCU Partners: Departments of Biology and Biostatistics, Center for Environmental Studies, Rice Center

A VCU team from the Departments of Biology, Biostatistics and the Center for Environmental Studies will create a bird monitoring and habitat protection program that partners local middle school students with students in Panama, with coordination and assistance from the Audubon Society's International Alliance Program.

Improving Access and Quality of Care for the Medically Underserved through the Interdisciplinary Enhanced Teaching Model

Community Partner: Cross-Over Ministries

Primary VCU Contact: Steven Crossman, MD, Department of Family Medicine

VCU Partners: Department of Family Medicine, School of Pharmacy

VCU medical and pharmacy students will work on interdisciplinary teams to expand access to health care for the uninsured patients at Cross-Over Health Ministries, Richmond's largest free clinic.

TAPA Model: Literacy and Language Training for Adult Immigrant Learners from Non-literate Societies

Community Partner: Total Access Preparatory Academy (TAPA)

VCU Partners: Office of International Education, L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

The Office of International Education will work in partnership with service-learning

students in the Liberal Studies for Early and Elementary Education Program to develop training manuals and protocols in order to disseminate the successful TAPA Model to ESL programs nationwide. As part of the project, approximately 60 service-learning students will serve as language tutors to non-literate adult learners.

Richmond Chapter of Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment

Community Partner: Richmond Chapter of Foundation for Rehab Equipment

VCU Partners: Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Medicine

Faculty and student teams from Occupational Therapy and the School of Medicine's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will launch a local chapter of FREE to accept, renovate, and redistribute medical equipment.

Multiple Family Group Intervention for Middle School Transition

Community Partner: Communities in Schools

VCU Partners: School of Social Work, Department of Psychology

Faculty and students from the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology will create and field-test weekend retreats for rising Richmond Public School sixth graders and their families in order to increase family functioning and support.

Vernal Pools and the Human Footprint

Community Partners: VA Master Naturalists Program, Natural Heritage Program, William & Mary, VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation

VCU Partners: Departments of Biology, Pathology and Conservation Medicine

Three classes of students and faculty from VCU and William & Mary will work with state agencies and a state-wide volunteer scientist network to raise awareness, understanding, and monitoring of threatened wetland communities across the Commonwealth.

Una Vida Sana: Assessing and Improving the Health Status of Richmond's Hispanic Community through Health Professional Student Service Learning

Community Partners: City of Richmond Hispanic Liaison Office, Cross-Over Ministries

VCU Partners: School of Nursing, School of Medicine, School of Pharmacy, Office of International Education

Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy, and VCUHS Language Services teams will collaborate with a lay health educator program to provide outreach cardio-metabolic disease screenings and referrals to the expanding local Hispanic community.

2011-2012 Recipients

Traumatic Brain Injury Family Support: A Multi-Family Model

Community Partner: Brain Injury Association of Virginia

VCU Partners: School of Social Work, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

VCU's School of Social Work and Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will partner with community nonprofit agency Brain Injury Association of Virginia in an effort to improve holistic family functioning following traumatic brain injury.

Open Minds

Community Partner: Richmond City Jail

VCU Partners: Departments of English, Religious Studies, Women's Studies, and African-American Studies

Open Minds enables 40 residents of Richmond City Jail and 40 VCU students to learn from each other about many social problems surrounding crime. Four faculty from four academic units address these problems in dual enrollment courses that meet at the Richmond City Jail.

Dental Fair for Native Americans in Virginia

Community Partner: Rappahannock Tribe

VCU Partners: Departments of Gerontology, Dental Hygiene, School of Dentistry

Faculty and students from the School of Dentistry and the departments of Gerontology and Dental Hygiene will partner with the Rappahannock Tribe to host a two-day dental fair that will provide preventative and restorative care to Native Americans for all of the state's eleven tribes.

ArtSmarts: An Intensive, SOL-Integrated Art Program for Richmond Public Schools

Community Partner: Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

VCU Partners: Departments of Education and Art Education

Faculty and students from the Schools of Education and Art will partner with the Virginia Museum for Fine Arts and Richmond Public Schools to support an intensive art education program for third graders at two elementary schools in the city.

Assessing the Needs of the Asian-American Community in Richmond

Community Partner: Asian American Society of Central Virginia

VCU Partners: School of Social Work, Department of Psychology

Faculty and students from the School of Social Work and the Department of Psychology will seek to identify the social, health care and mental health needs of the local Asian-American community.

Pixie's Pen Pals: A Program for Virginia's Inmates

Community Partners: FETCH-a-Cure's Pixie's Pen Pals; Virginia Department of Corrections

VCU Partners: Department of Psychology, School of Medicine, School of Business

Faculty and students from the department of Psychology, the Medical School's Center for Human and Animal Interaction and the School of Business will work with FETCH-a-Cure and the Department of Corrections to evaluate the Pixie's Pen Pals program, an un-tested form of Animal Assisted Therapy in which inmates learn to train shelter dogs.

2012-2013 Recipients

Animal-Assisted Therapy for Children with Autism

Community Partner: The Faison School

VCU Partners: Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology

Faculty, staff and students from the departments of Psychiatry and Psychology will work with the Faison School to address the educational needs of children with autism spectrum disorders through Animal-Assisted Therapy.

Community Health and Wellness Program for Older Adults

Community Partner: Dominion Place Apartments

VCU Partners: Departments of Internal Medicine, Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science, Pediatrics, Adult Health and Nursing Systems, and School of Social Work

Faculty and professional students, in partnership with Dominion Place staff, will conduct a brief intervention focused on diabetes and hypertension to address wellness and chronic disease management of community elders.

CMoR Learning: Developing Interdisciplinary Partnerships for an Inclusive Learning Community

Community Partner: Children's Museum of Richmond

VCU Partners: Department of Occupational Therapy, School of Education, and Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU

Partnering faculty and students will work with CMoR staff in assessing and adapting the physical and learning environment of the museum, developing collaborative training to support the engagement of young children with disabilities and their families, and marketing to the community.

Barriers and Facilitators to Breastfeeding among Low-Income African-American Women

Community Partner: Richmond Healthy Start Initiative and Richmond Department of Social Services

VCU Partners: Departments of Epidemiology and Community Health, Social and Behavioral Health, and Psychology

The Richmond Healthy Start Initiative, the Mayor's Breastfeeding Commission's lead community partner, approached VCU researchers to conduct a study to gain a deeper understanding of why low-income African-American women in the City of Richmond participate in breastfeeding well below the state average.

VCU – Richmond Collaborative Bicyclists Education: A Comparison of Formal Course and Independent Training

Community Partner: City of Richmond, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Program

VCU Partners: Departments of Physical Therapy, Urban & Regional Planning, and the Office of Sustainability

Focused on increasing safe bicycling usage at VCU and in Richmond, VCU bicycling and transportation experts will team with Richmond, Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Coordinator to develop a multi-mode bicyclist education program.

Middle of Broad + Storefront = MoBS

Community Partner: Storefront for Community Design

VCU Partners: School of the Arts and Department of Urban and Regional Planning

The MoBStorefront Partnership will empower traditionally marginalized residents, entrepreneurs and communities in the City of Richmond to participate fully in the design and development of their communities through increased access to design services, resources and education. The Partnership will increase community engagement through both service oriented design internships and participation in the MoB Experimental Design Studio.

Mosby Leadership Program

Community Partner: Richmond Redevelopment Housing Authority

VCU Partners: Center on Health Disparities and Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

The Mosby Leadership Program will be a collaborative extension of the current Mosby's Community Health Connections (MCHC) partnership. This program aims to build a cadre of residents with the self-confidence, motivation, skills and knowledge needed to be a catalyst for community change.

2013-2014 Recipients

Food Landscapes

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

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 Partners: 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

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

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

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.

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

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.

2014-2015 Recipients

“Agri-Culture”: Growing Food and Community with Richmond Refugees

Community Partner: ReEstablish Richmond (ReR)

VCU Partners: School of Social Work; The Wellness Resource Center

The partnership between ReR, VCU Social Work and VCU Wellness Resource Center will

promote healthy lives for food insecure Richmond refugees and build a cross-cultural community through gardening and food. VCU students and faculty, community volunteers and refugees will work side by side to expand ReR's rooftop garden; refugees will be invited to experiential health and wellness workshops; and refugees will lead gardening workshops. This project empowers refugees by recognizing their agricultural knowledge as assets that can contribute to Richmond's local food system while generating new knowledge on culturally sensitive practices with refugee involvement.

Beautiful RVA Partnership: Co-creating Livability in Richmond Communities

Community Partners: Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden; City of Richmond, Office of Sustainability; Groundwork RVA; TMI Consulting, Inc.

VCU Partners: L. Douglas Wilder School of Government & Public Affairs; VCUarts, Dept. of Fashion, Dept. of Graphic Design, Dept. of Interior Design

In 2012, the City of Richmond adopted its first sustainability plan, "RVAGreen: A Roadmap to Sustainability," that cites among its primary objectives the need for the creation of a citywide beautification program which must be grassroots, collaborative and not dependent upon city fiscal resources. The BeautifulRVA Partnership will combine the skills of VCU students and faculty with community partners to coordinate a community-based beautification initiative for Richmond.

Crossing the River: Bridging the Education Gap – Enhancing the First Spanish GED Preparation Program in Richmond

Community Partner: Sacred Heart Center (SHC)

VCU Partners: Office of Continuing Studies; College of Humanities and Sciences, Dept. of Physics

Crossing the River is a partnership aimed to improve and extend the only Spanish GED (General Education Development) preparation program offered in the Richmond area. It opens an opportunity for students who did not complete high school and international students who are unable to fulfill their academic dreams because of the language barrier. The project also gives VCU students a service and learning opportunity to expand their cultural horizons and improve their teaching, tutoring and administrative skills while helping the immigrant Hispanic community.

Expanding Trauma-Informed Intervention for Preschoolers: An Inter-Disciplinary Best Practice Approach

Community Partner: Greater Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN), Circle Preschool Program (CPP)

VCU Partners: School of Allied Health Professions, Dept. of Occupational Therapy; School of Social Work

Early trauma and neglect puts children at high risk for long lasting cognitive, social and emotional challenges. Best practice treatment requires knowledge of trauma-informed care for both child and caregiver. CPP, lone provider of such intervention in Virginia, faces two challenges in the provision of optimal services: limited staff resources and a paucity of professionals with relevant training. This project will address both challenges by guiding students from occupational therapy and social work in assessment and intervention at CPP and by providing inter-disciplinary education and training to emerging professionals and the clinical community.

Social Practice in the Museum: A Service-Learning Course for VCU Students and Young People in the Museum

Community Partners: Church Hill Activities & Tutoring (CHAT); Valentine Richmond History Center

VCU Partners: VCUarts, Dept. of Art History, Dept. of Photography & Film, Anderson Gallery

The primary goal of this collaborative, interdisciplinary project is to engage VCU students from the Departments of Art History and Photography & Film with high school students participating in CHAT. Working together in a cross-listed course entitled, “Social Practice in the Museum,” these two groups will engage to learn about Richmond’s Church Hill neighborhood and its history; obtain new technical photography and filmmaking skills; critically investigate the role of museums as forums for community engagement; and receive professional training in museum work.

A Welcoming Richmond

Community Partners: The Bridge Community Development Corporation (Bridge CDC); City of Richmond, Office of Multicultural Affairs

VCU Partners: School of World Studies; L. Douglas Wilder School of Government & Public Affairs

Many immigrants in the Richmond area are preparing to become citizens. To help these immigrants successfully integrate in Richmond, the Bridge CDC, School of World Studies and the Wilder School will partner to provide preparation services for the citizenship exam and identification of resources to help pay citizenship fees. This project will develop a strong civics component and a volunteer base to complement ESL programs already offered.

2015-2016 Recipients

A CBPR Evaluation of Mommies, Babies, Bellies & Daddies – the ABC’s of Breastfeeding

Community Partners: Healthy Hearts Plus II; Kinfolks Community

VCU Partners: Department of Sociology; Institute for Women’s Health

Breastfeeding provides substantial health benefits for children and mothers, including reduced infection rates, obesity, and post-neonatal mortality among children, and a lower risk of breast and ovarian cancer among mothers. However, young mothers of low socioeconomic status are unlikely to breastfeed. Mommies, Bellies, Babies, & Daddies- the ABC’s of Breastfeeding (ABC’s of Breastfeeding) program is a targeted community-based, grass-roots intervention to encourage, inform and empower mothers to care for themselves and their babies and to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration. This project will evaluate and disseminate the outcomes of the ABC’s of Breastfeeding using community based participatory research (CBPR) methods. Findings will be used as baseline data for seeking federal funding to establish the ABC’s of Breastfeeding as an evidence-based best practice model for community based breastfeeding promotion.

Expanding Healthy Relationships in Central Virginia

Community Partners: Hearth Havens, Inc.; Virginia Anti-Violence Project

VCU Partners: Department of Rehabilitation Counseling; Partnership for People with Disabilities; School of Education; School of Social Work

Healthy relationship education is a widely accepted primary intervention for preventing abuse. It is particularly important for people with disabilities because of the much higher risk for experiencing abuse than those without disabilities. This project will address this disparity by training an interdisciplinary group of VCU students to implement and evaluate the Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention (LEAP) healthy relationship curriculum. This partnership will advance abuse prevention for adults with disabilities in several ways. The people with disabilities who participate in the LEAP training will better

understand healthy relationships and develop skills for disclosing unhealthy or confusing relationships to a trusted person. VCU students will gain foundational knowledge for supporting people with disabilities as well as learn the dynamics of interpersonal violence and how to respond if someone were to disclose abuse.

Monroe Park Campus Garden

Community Partners: Center for High Blood Pressure; Community Food Collaborative

VCU Partners: Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science; Division of Community Engagement; Office of Sustainability; Green Unity; mOb Studio & Storefront for Community Design; RamPantry; Verde

Food deserts are areas with limited access to healthy food options and are a major contributor to health issues and inequality in the United States. In 2012, the U.S.D.A. identified Richmond as the largest food desert for a U.S. city its size. The goals of the Monroe Park Campus (MPC) Garden project are twofold: (1) to provide experiential learning opportunities around growing and accessing healthy food, and (2) to grow a high volume of fresh produce for donation to underserved individuals. This project will create a master plan for the construction and management of a high-output garden on VCU's Monroe Park Campus that upon implementation will solidify a strong network of partnerships between the university and Richmond community members.

PALETTE in Motion

Community Partners: Promoting Art for Life Enrichment Through Transgenerational Engagement (PALETTE); Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging

VCU Partners: Departments of Dance and Choreography, Gerontology, Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science, and Physical Therapy

Promoting Art for Life Enrichment Through Transgenerational Engagement (PALETTE) launched in January 2014 as an intergenerational visual arts program for interprofessional students and senior adults. This project will expand PALETTE to present a movement arts program. PALETTE in Motion will pair VCU students with senior adults to participate in creative movement classes over the course of a semester. Ageism (fear of senior adults) and negative attitudes toward senior adults are shown to reduce effective care delivery and impact senior adults' long term health outcome. PALETTE in Motion is designed to challenge these attitudes by promoting successful aging, fostering community engagement and offering students new options for translating their studies into their career.

\$WAGIFY: Savings and Wealth as Goals in African American Youth

Community Partners: Girls for a Change; Ndugu Business & Leadership Academy

VCU Partners: Departments of African American Studies, Finance, and Psychology

African Americans lag substantially behind other racial/ethnic groups in financial literacy. Culturally-tailored financially literacy programming is an important tool to closing this knowledge gap. Financial literacy programs and information are currently available at the state level, on the internet, and via volunteer and after school programs. However, in Richmond, none of these are culturally tailored, limiting accessibility, relevance, and practical application to the community. This program will explore community-specific barriers to financial literacy and financial inclusion and then develop and pilot a culturally-tailored financial literacy education program for African American youth in Richmond.

The Red Flag Campaign: Promoting Prevention through Program Messaging Evaluation

Community Partner: Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

VCU Partners: Department of Social and Behavioral Health; Institute of Women's Health; The Wellness Resource Center; Richard T. Robertson School of Media & Culture; School of Education

In 2006, the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance developed the Red Flag Campaign to prevent dating violence on college campuses. The Red Flag Campaign is widely adopted nationally, but lacks empirical validation due to its lack of an outcome evaluation. Additionally, Red Flag Campaign's social media messaging is also in need of refinement and evaluation. This project will continue an ongoing project at VCU to refine and test an evaluation tool and social media campaign for the Red Flag Campaign. The data collected will assist the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance with enhancing their status as a key evidence-based violence prevention program.

2016-2017 Recipients

Building a Better Binford: VCU Art of Nursing Goes to School

Community Partner: Binford Middle School (BMS); Communities in Schools (CIS)
VCU Partners: Departments of Art Education and Family & Community Health Nursing

BMS has targeted relationship building as a focus for the 2016-17 year in order to improve the learning and working environment. The VCU Art of Nursing program, an established museum-based interprofessional collaboration, has demonstrated improved perception, communication and reflection skills for beginning nursing students. Based on successes drawing parallels to practice in a healthcare setting, VCU Art of Nursing will implement this methodology at BMS to increase appreciation and value of diversity in staff, administration, parents and students.

MITI Meals: A Hands-On Approach to Nourishing Families

Community Partner: Shalom Farms
VCU Partners: Departments of Kinesiology & Health Sciences, Pediatrics and Psychology

Many low-income residents of Richmond lack consistent access to healthy foods and are at high risk for obesity. Previous community-based participatory research identified needs for increased access to high quality foods and experiential learning activities that enable residents to overcome barriers to nutritious eating. This project will catalyze these efforts while also offering VCU students community-engaged learning opportunities and providing data for future grant applications.

STEM Exploration and Enrichment Academy

Community Partner: Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS)
VCU Partners: Life Sciences – Center for the Study of Biological Complexity; The Honors College

The needs of high ability middle-school learners are often overlooked because it is assumed that they have access to the resources required for success. However, not all students identified as gifted and high ability learners have access to financial resources or parental involvement needed to support prosperity. This project will address this resource gap by connecting VCU students with HCPS high ability middleschoolers in order to provide an experiential learning opportunity in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

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

Over one in 10 adults in Richmond have diabetes, which can be well-controlled with intensive behavioral self-management. However, few self-management programs exist that are designed to reach groups with limited economic resources. Using a mixed-methods approach, this project will address this disparity by identifying and disseminating best practices for community-oriented diabetes self-management programs, engaging students in community-based research and building sustainable research capacity on diabetes within Richmond through establishment of a Community Advisory Board.

Training Latino Residents in Mental Health First Aid

Community Partner: The Sacred Heart Center

VCU Partners: Department of Psychology; Schools of Social Work and Medicine – Division of Epidemiology

Latinos are not likely to seek and receive mental treatment because of language barriers, limited availability of bilingual providers and mental health stigma. Thus, there continues to be a significant gap in the mental health services available to Latinos in Richmond. This project will train Latino residents in Mental Health First Aid, an intervention program that provides participants with skills and knowledge about mental health issues.

2016-2017 Community-Engaged Research Partnership Development Grant Recipient

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)

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopment disorder; however, the developmental trajectory as adults with autism age is not well understood. With the rise in recognition of the disorder, adult outcomes have become an increasing priority for this population. This project will forge a course of research that identifies best practices supporting the needs of aging adults with Autism while optimizing quality of life.

2017-2018 Community Engagement Grant Recipients

VCU Sculpture Outreach Program

Community Partner: Art 180

VCU Partners: Department of Sculpture + Extended Media; Institute for Contemporary Art

All students should have the opportunity to realize their greatest potential through creative expression. While there are art programs serving teens in Richmond, few are accessible to families with low-income. The Sculpture Outreach Program will provide local high schoolers with free Saturday art classes focused on three-dimensional making. Teens will experience a hands-on studio, museum visits, lectures and portfolio workshops, as well as materials, methods and ways of thinking that introduce creative work as a viable educational choice and expand teens' potential for future success.

Building Interactive Environments for Older Adults with Autism that Promote Stress Management and Engagement

Community Partner: A Grace Place Adult Day Care Center

VCU Partners: Departments of Gerontology and Interior Design; Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

Autism is a lifelong disorder; however, little is understood about older adults with autism. In 2016, A Grace Place Adult Day Care Center shared a specific need – older adults with autism require

specialized supports and services. This transdisciplinary team will design supports for stress reduction and active engagement in learning and leisure through creation of individualized adult sensory profiles, a multi-paneled interactive wall and interactive sensory boxes. Resulting academic materials will be disseminated through a community of scholars in order to develop a service environment better equipped to meet the needs of adults with autism.

An Interprofessional Intervention with Behavioral Health and Pharmacy Trainees to Reduce Smoking Rates in the Latino Population of a Free Health Clinic in Richmond

Community Partner: CrossOver Healthcare Ministry

VCU Partners: Departments of Pharmacotherapy & Outcome Sciences and Psychology

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. Of those who smoke in the United States over 480,000 will die prematurely each year, with the Latino population impacted disproportionately. This project aims to improve the smoking cessation rates in the Latino population at CrossOver, providing a foundation for collaborative research and establishing an intervention model for underserved communities.

Touching the Past: Enhancing Accessibility for Richmond's Visually Impaired Community and Others to Virginia's Heritage through 3D Printing

Community Partners: Department for the Blind & Vision Impaired; Virginia Historical Society (VHS)

VCU Partners: Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention; Schools of Education and World Studies

Over 500 objects in an exhibit at VHS highlight Virginia's 16,000 year history in a visually stunning and richly textured manner. Yet, "The Story of Virginia" is not available for visually impaired visitors to explore and is limited to those who can travel to the museum. This project will scan, create and develop 3D printed replicas of Virginia's heritage using unique items from VHS. These items will be made available for on-site "touch tours," in-school teaching with accompanying lesson plans and available on a global level through publicly accessible digital models that can be studied through any internet browser and 3D printed on demand.

2017-2018 Community-Engaged Research Partnership Development Grant Recipients

Asset-Based Community Development: A Model for Community Strengthening

Community Partners: City of Richmond Office of Sustainability; Embrace Richmond; Engaging Richmond

VCU Partners: Center of Society and Health; Department of Urban & Regional Studies & Planning

In the field of community development, scholars, practitioners and residents tend to focus on "needs" and how policies or programs might address deficient local urban neighborhoods. The challenge with needs-based strategies is that they ignore capacities of local residents to enact positive change. Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) is a strategy for community building that locates and mobilizes community assets and capacities. This grant will empower partnering organizations to develop an ABCD theoretical model, adapt it to be appropriate for Richmond communities and create a more holistic strategy to serve as a pilot for expanding civic engagement across the region.

Building on Sacred Ground: The Art of Remembrance

Community Partner: Shockoe Bottom Center for Historic Reclamation (SBCHR)

VCU Partners: Departments of African American Studies, Art Education and History

The SBCHR builds on activism in the Richmond community around developing an inclusive process for engaging black Richmonders in the process and plans for memorialization of the Lumpkins Jail and African Burial ground site in Shockoe Bottom. This partnership will

foster discourse around the history of black people in the city and shaping university-community relations that are respectful and collaborative. The partnership team will develop research questions and subsequent projects that emanate from shared interest in slavery, memory and the built environment in order to consider how the overlooked history of the city can help to remember the past and imagine the future.

Community Forestry Project

Community Partners: Carver Area Civic Improvement League (CACIL); Capital Trees; Richmond Tree Stewards

VCU Partners: Center for Environmental Studies; Office of Sustainability

Urban tree cover (UTC) is an environmental, social and human health asset; however, it is often unequally distributed across urban landscapes. This partnership between CACIL, Capital Trees and Richmond Tree Stewards and the VCU Center for Environmental Studies and Office of Sustainability will investigate spatial distribution of UTC in relation to socioeconomic and environmental factors, as well as policies to address inequities in UTC ecosystem services.