

**Virginia Commonwealth University
Community Engagement Grant Recipients
2011-2012**

Traumatic Brain Injury Family Support: A Multi-Family Model

Community Partner: Brain Injury Association of Virginia
Primary VCU Contact: Melissa Abell, Ph.D., School of Social Work
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
Primary VCU Contact: David Coogan, Ph.D., Department of English
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
Primary VCU Contact: Tracey Gendron, Department of Gerontology
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
Primary VCU Contact: James McMillan, Ph.D., School of Education
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
Primary VCU Contacts: Peter Nguyen, Ph.D., School of Social Work;
Rosalie Corona, Ph.D., Department of Psychology
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
Primary VCU Contact: Victoria Shivy, Ph.D., Department of Psychology
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.