

Virginia Commonwealth University Community Engagement Grants 2012-2013

Animal-Assisted Therapy for Children with Autism

Community Partner: The Faison School
Primary VCU Contact: Sandra Barker, Ph.D., Department of Psychiatry
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
Primary VCU Contact: Pamela Parsons, Ph.D., Department of Internal Medicine
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
Primary VCU Contact: Carole Ivey, Ph.D., Department of Occupational Therapy
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
Primary VCU Contact: Saba Masho, Ph.D., Department of Epidemiology and Community Health
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
Primary VCU Contact: Sheryl Finucane, Ph.D., Department of Physical Therapy
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
Primary VCU Contact: Kristen Caskey, Associate Professor and Interim Assistant Chair, Fashion Design and Merchandising
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
Primary VCU Contact: Alton Hart, M.D., M.P.H., Associate Professor, Internal Medicine, Director, Massey Cancer Center’s Adult Cancer Survivorship Clinic, and the Associate Medical Director, VCU Center on Health Disparities
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.