

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE: **CONNECT2025**

Program Overview

8:30	Registration and Networking
9:00	Welcome Maghboeba Mosavel, Ph.D., Vice Provost for Community Engagement, VCU
9:15	Side by Side: Mutual Benefit in Partnership • Adam Vo, VCU Student, Class of 2027, Executive Director, Personalized Exploration for College Success (PECS) • John Van Zandt, Secondary Success Pathways Department, Richmond Public Schools.
9:30	Engage: What is Mutual Benefit Participants at each table will collaborate to identify mutual benefits related to community engagement.
10:00	Mutual Benefit in Practice - Panel Discussion A panel of experts representing diverse voices on partnership will discuss effective practices for designing, sustaining, and regaining mutual benefits in university–community partnerships. • Shantell Chambliss, Ph.D., Executive Director, Central Virginia Dress for Success, and Founder and Principal, Nonprofitability • Daniel Gutierrez, Ph.D., Professor, Counseling and Special Education, VCU School of Education, and Director of the Socially Transformative Applied Research (STAR) Lab • Moderator: Matthew Slaats, Senior Civic Innovation Manager, Richmond City Council.

10:45

Mutual Benefit in Action

Participants will use LEGO or other methods to reflect on how they can enhance mutual benefits in their own work.

- **Facilitator: Lloyd Young**, Executive Director, VCU da Vinci Center for Innovation, Co-founder, Shift Retail Labs

11:15

Break

11:30

Scavenger Hunt

As part of our intentional networking mission, participants will engage in a game to meet one another and establish connections.

12:00

Building Sustainable Partnerships: From Intro to Impact

- **Valerie Liggins**, Vice President for Programs, The Cameron Foundation
- **Maghboeba Mosavel, Ph.D.**, Vice Provost, Community Engagement, VCU
- **Theresa Caldwell**, Community Engagement Specialist, Virginia Department of Health – Crater Health District, and Board Member, Petersburg Wellness Consortium
- **Moderator – Katelyn Schifano**, Assistant Director, Community Engagement in Research, Community Outreach & Engagement, VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

12:45

Lunch

1:45

Side-by-Side: AI and Research

- **Radhika Barua, Ph.D.** Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, VCU and Director, Advanced Materials Processing Research Lab
- **Phyl Demetriou**, Founder and Executive Director, Richmond Institute of Technology and Science

2:00

How to Build an Academic-Community Research Partnership and Assess the Use of AI

- **David Naff, Ph.D.**, Director, Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium, Associate Professor, Research, Assessment and Evaluation, VCU School of Education, and Associate Director, Institute for Collaborative Research and Evaluation
- **Matt Caratachea, Ph.D.**, Director of Instructional Innovation, Goochland County Public Schools.

2:20

Break

2:30

World Cafe

1. **Academic-Community Research Partnerships (Black Table Cloths)**
 - a. Getting to Know Your Partner (Blue)
 - b. Partnership Structure for Authentic Community Voice (Pink)
 - c. Aligning Timelines and Outcomes (Gold)
2. **Community Engaged AI (Gold Table Cloths)**
 - a. Ethics and Accountability (Blue)
 - b. Community Capacity and AI Literacy (Pink)
 - c. Community-led AI Collaboration (Gold)

4:00

Thank you and Farewell