



VCU Office of the Provost

Division of Community Engagement

Community-Engaged Research Scholars Collaborative

CERSC - Faculty Fellowship Program

Deadline: May 29, 2026

Stipend: \$1,000

Format: In-person

Eligibility: Tenure-track faculty

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OVERVIEW

The Community-Engaged Research Scholars Collaborative (CERSC) is an initiative of VCU's Division of Community Engagement designed for tenure-track faculty interested in integrating community-engaged research into their scholarly work.

This in-person collaborative brings together a cohort of faculty fellows and creates a dedicated space for connection, reflection, and active engagement. Faculty are expected to attend sessions in person, review shared materials in advance, and come prepared to discuss their own projects, questions, and areas of focus.

Whether you are new to community-engaged research or seeking to deepen your work, this collaborative provides mentorship, peer learning, and cross-disciplinary exchange. Sessions will focus on advancing scholarly outputs, strengthening community partnerships, applying community-engaged research frameworks, and identifying funding pathways.

Faculty fellows will also build networks across campus and disciplines while developing strategies to align their research with both scholarly goals and meaningful community impact.

Note: You do not need to focus exclusively on CEnR to apply. Scholars pursuing other research paths who wish to integrate community engagement into their work are welcome.



WHAT TO EXPECT

This collaborative offers practical guidance, peer learning, and a dedicated space for reflection to support faculty in deepening or launching their community-engaged research.

Participants will work toward a specific project, product, or milestone with support from experiences mentors and peers.

PROGRAM GOALS

- 1 Build faculty capacity for rigorous, impactful, partnership-driven community-engaged research
- 2 Create a peer learning environment where faculty can share challenges, experiences, and strategies
- 3 Provide access to mentorship, expert guidance, and CEnR consultation for projects, grants, and other scholarly outputs
- 4 Increase awareness and use of institutional resources that support CEnR
- 5 Strengthen connections to VCU's broader CEnR and learning network
- 6 Support each participant in advancing a defined CEnR goal or product



ELIGIBILITY & SUBMISSION CRITERIA

- ✓ Tenure-track faculty member at VCU
- ✓ Willing to review materials in advance
- ✓ Strong interest in initiating or strengthening CEnR
- ✓ Committed to advancing a specific research goal or project
- ✓ Able to attend in-person sessions consistently
- ✓ Prepared to engage and discuss their own work
- ✓ Interested in integrating community engagement into their research portfolio
- ✓ Letter of support from Department Chair
- ✓ Submit an updated CV

WHAT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE

- Strategic guidance to refine and strengthen your CEnR focus
- Thought partnership on project design, community partnerships, and stakeholder engagement
- Support navigating institutional structures and resources specific to CEnR
- Exposure to funding pathways and mechanisms for CEnR
- Opportunities to connect with university offices that support CEnR
- Insights into publishing, presenting, and framing CEnR scholarship
- Space for reflection on values, positionality, and partnerships
- Structured feedback to support progress on your specific project or goal



\$1,000

Professional development stipend

Participants who fully complete the program will receive a \$1,000 stipend to support professional development. This funding is intended to be used toward activities that advance your scholarly work and growth. The stipend will be distributed in the spring semester.



JOIN THE COLLABORATIVE

Join a dynamic, in-person community of scholars committed to making their research matter beyond the academy. The Community-Engaged Research Scholars Collaborative (CERSC) is an exciting opportunity for tenure-track faculty to connect across disciplines and strengthen community-engaged research. This collaborative offers in-person sessions focused on peer exchange, shared learning, and exposure to approaches, funding pathways, and institutional supports for CEnR. Apply by May 29. Participants who complete the program will receive a \$1,000 stipend to support professional development.


Ready to apply?


Application deadline May 29, 2026

[Apply now →](#)

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Division of Community Engagement

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