

JOIN THE  
**COMMUNITY-ENGAGED**  
**RESEARCH SCHOLARS**  
**COLLABORATIVE**  
**(CERSC)**



**APPLY BY JUNE 15, 2025**  
**[APPLICATION LINK](#)**

A new opportunity for tenure-track assistant professors to deepen their CEnR practice, connect with peers, and receive community-engaged research mentorship.



# OVERVIEW

## WHO IS THIS FOR?

- Tenure-track assistant professors interested in community-engaged research
- Faculty looking for mentorship, peer support, and strategies for integrating CEnR into their work

The **Community-Engaged Research Scholars Collaborative** (CERSC) is an initiative of the **Division of Community Engagement** (DCE) designed to support faculty who are interested in integrating community-engaged research (CEnR) into their scholarly portfolio. Whether you are just beginning to explore CEnR or have already begun this work and are seeking guidance and connection, this collaborative provides space to grow, reflect, and act. Additionally, this collaborative will help foster a sense of community among VCU faculty from across different units by providing space to share both challenges and expertise related to integrating community-engaged research into their work. It offers an opportunity to learn from one another, build meaningful connections, and receive expert guidance on how to be successful as a community-engaged scholar. Recognizing that community-engaged research is time-intensive, this group will explore strategies for leveraging that time to produce both scholarly and community-centered outputs, depending on each participant's stage in the research process.

**The collaborative will build foundational knowledge while offering practical guidance and peer learning to help participants deepen or launch their CEnR efforts. Participants will work toward a clearly defined product or milestone with the support of experienced mentors and colleagues.**

## **PROGRAM GOALS**

- ✓ Build faculty capacity for partnership-driven, rigorous, and impactful community-engaged research
- ✓ Create a peer learning environment grounded in shared values
  - ✓ Provide mentorship, conceptual support, and implementation guidance
  - ✓ Support participants in advancing a specific CEnR goal



## **ELIGIBILITY**

- ✓ Must be a tenure-track assistant professor
- ✓ Must have an existing interest in or idea related to community-engaged research
- ✓ Must be able to attend monthly sessions (September to May)
- ✓ Must submit all required application materials by June 15
- ✓ 6 Participants will be selected

## **PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT**

- ✓ **Attend 90-minute monthly sessions (in-person or hybrid)**
- ✓ **Engage in peer exchange and collaborative learning**
- ✓ **Provide a written reflection on your evolving practice and understanding of community-engaged scholarship**

In May, each scholar will submit a one-time written reflection on their growth and understanding of community-engaged research. With permission, reflections may be shared as part of future resources for community-engaged research scholars.

- ✓ **Develop a product by May (e.g., partnership plan, proposal draft, project concept).**

This product is determined by the scholar and is intended to support their own clarity and progress. While it is not required to be submitted externally, it may be shared with their department chair if helpful.

 **STIPEND: UPON COMPLETION, PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A \$500 STIPEND TOWARDS THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

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**For questions, email: [engage@vcu.edu](mailto:engage@vcu.edu)**