

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE **CONNECT 2025**

COMMUNITY.VCU.EDU

CONNECT 2025 PARTNER BOARDS

To foster international networking, Connect 2025 featured a gallery wall composed of foam boards, accompanied by a partner needs card included in each participant's program packet. Participants interested in forming partnerships were invited to complete these cards with their name, contact information, and the areas in which they sought collaboration. All submitted cards have been digitized and are presented here.

When another participant expressed interest in partnering, the Division of Community Engagement committed to directly connecting the organizations to support continued relationship-building.

Below are the partner cards submitted by Connect 2025 participants.

ACE-IT in College

[Aceitincollege.vcu.edu](https://aceitincollege.vcu.edu)

Jan Shea, MSW

Program Coordinator

RRTC-Center on Transition Innovations

1314 West Main Street

(804)-828-2057

djshea@vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Community-Based internships for ACE-IT students
- Sharing about college options for young adults with intellectual disability!
- Campus-based partnerships for hiring ACE-IT students and us hiring FWS & Work Study Students

B.E.S.T Therapeutic Solutions

besttsva.com

Contact: Demetria Davis, (804)-557-0085

Partnering Around:

- Collaboration in community healing
- Barriers to community healing
- Mental health/substance abuse

Blue Sky Fund

blueskyfund.org

Contact: Josh Bearman, Programs Director,
josh@blueskyfun.org, 804-554-2207

Partnering Around:

- OST partnerships
- H.S. aged leadership opportunities. Service learning
- Outdoor learning
- ENV. justice

Burlington Capital

Contact: Maurice Kie,
rsc@burlingtoncapital.com, (804)-840-1067

Partnering Around:

- Resources for seniors (Age 55+)
- Fathers/Men's Groups/ Activities/ Teen Career/ Job Exposure
- 30 min - 1 hour workshops for residents
- Food, clothing, furniture, events, Mental Health, counseling

Caritas

Caritas.org

Partnering Around:

- Volunteer Engagement
- Collaborating with local businesses for donation support

City of Richmond Equity + Inclusion Office

Contact: Aneesah Smith, Equity and LGBTQ+ Advisor, aneesah.smith@rva.gov,
(804)-646-7108

Partnering Around:

- Any organization serving the LGBTQIA+ community
- Any organization doing equity work, no matter what you call it
- Any organization wanting to build a relationship with the city

City of Richmond - RVA People's Budget

RVAPB.org

Contacts: Leidiana Delgado

Partnering Around:

- Youth services
- Democracy advocates
- VOTE, Ballot professionals
- Senior services
- Public policy professionals
- Civic innovation leaders
- Budget professionals

Commonwealth Catholic Charities

www.cccofva.org

Contact: Khalid Hashimo, Khalid.hashimi@cccofva.org, 804-584-7910

Partnering Around:

- Need health insurance resources

Commonwealth Catholic Charities Refugee Settlement

Contact: Julia Scheidemantel, Resettlement Program Supervisor

Julia.scheidemantel@cccova.org, (804)-577-3696

Partnering Around:

- Connecting Immigrants to employment
- Volunteers looking to work with newcomers
- Resources for English language learners

Family Lifeline

familylifeline.org

Contacts: Lizmarie Jorge Alicea, M.A

Community Engagement Manager

804-249-5414 Office

804-637-4546 Cell

Partnering Around:

- Grants to expand services in the Dinwiddie/Emporia area for all our programs
- Employ CNAs & PCAs for our long-term team support services
- Referrals/cross referrals for our early childhood (pregnant to age 5) Asthma (respiratory hx) 0 to 18 year old long term support services (disable + elderly)
- Visiting volunteers- find volunteers

Hopewell Farmers Market

hopewelldowntown.com/farmersmarket

Contact: Arielle McCollum, Hopewellfarmersmarket@gmail.com, (804)-446-1055

Partnering Around:

- Food Access + Nutrition education
- Volunteer + internship opportunities
- Grants + sponsorships

International Rescue Committee

[Rescue.org/Richmond](https://www.rescue.org/richmond)

John Elwell

Community Engagement Manager

john.elwell@rescue.org

Partnering Around:

- Resources for refugees & immigrants
- Building a welcoming community for newcomers
- Career Advancement Opportunities for immigrants & those still developing English language skills

Kelly D Rainney LLC

Contact: www.kellydrainney.com

Kelly.kellydrainney@gmail.com

804-982-0671

Partnering Around:

- Youth development facilitation opportunities
- Intergenerational facilitation opportunities

Mea Lordn, LLC

Navigate the Maze Inc. 501(c)(3)

Building Community Education, Homeownership

LMPOSHHH.com

Interior Designs/Events

mealordn77@gmail.com

(804)-433-9003

Partnering Around:

- Building Community with Education, homeownership
- Self Sustainability
- Interior Design, Event Planners

Moore Equity Consultants

Contact: Andrea Moore — mooreequityconsultants@outlook.com

Partnering Around:

- Health Equity
- Capacity Building
- Quality Improvement

Interests / Needs: Not specified

Normalize Mental Health VA

Contacts: Deanie Barrion LMSW-S

508-834-7860

dbarrion@normalizementalhealthva.com

Partnering Around:

- Conference planning
- Education on domestic violence and how kink differs from DV
- Domestic violence/ sexual assault
- Clinicians/interested DRS police officers in learning how kink differs from DV

"If you are someone who needs a clinician with openings - That's me. If you want to learn about domestic violence/kink or ADHD - That's Me.

Peoples Advantage FCU

Peopleadufcu.org

Contacts: cvtipilson@peoplesadvfcu.org , 804-731-9297

Partnering Around:

- Assisting underserved, unbanked communities access to affordable financial products and services
- Discovering the financial needs of the Richmond community
- Provide affordable and creative lending services to small businesses

Peter Paul RVA

www.peterpaulrva.org

Contact: Tasha Moore

Director of Family & Community Engagement

tmoore@peterpaulrva.org, (804)-780-1195

Partnering Around:

- Paid opportunities for parents to receive training (peer-to-peer) related to thriving families
- Partnership to help fill needs for food/housing/job pathways
- Speakers + resources for older adult programs (55+)

Peter Paul RVA

www.peterpaulrva.org

Contact: Tierra Humphries,

New Gen Coordinator, FCE (MS & HS OST Program)

thumphries@peterpaulrva.org, (804)-780-1195

Partnering Around:

- Funding and Grants
- Dual Enrollment programs
- Campus visits/ workshops
- Collaborative Programming
- Workforce development agencies

Richmond Grows Garden

Contacts: Nathaniel Martin – Nathaniel.Martin@rva.gov, (804) 337-0085

Partnering Around:

- Food Justice / Creating equitable food systems
- Space-making & culture development (seeking)

Richmond Henrico Health District Housing Justice Collective

vdh.virginia.gov

Partnering Around:

- Affordable housing in henrico
- Connections with tenants
- Expertise on preventing Displacement
- Outreach interns
- Housing research
- Expertise on planning and zoning

Richmond Planet Foundation

richmondplanet.com

Partnering Around:

- Storytelling & Storytellers native to Richmond and our family members who can show the story of Jackson Ward + Navy Hill
- VCU Gerontology + Community Engagement
- Seniors + people with diabetes in the area
- OF Care Coordination
- Healthy Families

Richmond Public Schools Enrollment, Placement, and Planning (EPP)

Contacts: Gloria Keating

Family and Community Engagement Coordinator

804-503-3501

gkeating@rvaschools.net

Partnering Around:

- Early childhood education
- Family support
- Home visits
- Community events

Richmond Public Schools High School Redesign

Contacts: Juliane Codd Toce – jcodd@rvaschools.net

Partnering Around:

- Providing High School Internships
- Career & Technical Education
- Expanding partnerships for career exposure for HS students

Richmond Public Schools

www.rvaschools.net

Contact: Amanda McKeithan

RPS Engagement Support Coordinator

amckeith@rvaschools.net , 804-807-3066

Partnering Around:

- Education opportunities and resources for students and families
- Programming for tween/teen girls
- Improving the culture and climate of teams and organizations

Richmond Public Schools

Contact: Deanna Edwards, 804-584-7910

Partnering Around:

- Events/speaker to engage parents about the importance of attendance
- Sponsor for student or mentor
- Open to any ideas

River City Sting Women's Tackle Football Team

rivercitysting.com

@RiverCitySting on IG & Facebook

Partnering Around:

- Improving exposure (media, social media, news, etc)
- Increasing funding/ sponsorships for our non-profit organizations (bookkeeping services)
- Volunteer opportunities (& community engagement)
- Recruitment of new players (17+)

RVA Black Elders

Telling Our Stories Program

Contact: Delores Kimbrough, Kimbrough Consulting

info@storiesfromelders.org, info@kimbroughconsultingva.com

Partnering Around:

- Student/Elder Connections & Sponsorships

Starseeds Learning Lab

Contacts: Melissa@starseedslearninglab.com

Partnering Around:

- Educators/Education
- Fundraising
- Research
- Alternative/Innovative Learning

Thatsfly Apparel & Branding

Contact: Jarren Thompson & Kenya Howard, (804)-245-6792

thatsflyapparel@gmail.com

Partnering Around:

- Non-profit startup
- Access to grant funding
- Branding & digital opportunities and knowledge
- Community board support/service

The Virginia Black Lifestyle Magazine (VBLM)

TheVABlackLifestyleMagazine.com

Contact: hello@thevablacklifestylemagazine.com

Cydney Consults(Education Consulting)

cydneyconsults.com

Partnering Around:

- Juneteenth (needs volunteers, partners, etc.)
- Women empowerment
- Speakers needed for spring symposium

VCU Continuing + Professional Education

ocpe.vcu.edu

Contact: Amanda Morris

Partnering Around:

- Industry-specific skills gaps, how we can co-create training programs to address
- Co-creating learning experiences for the community that create alternative pathways to education + employment
- Fostering social mobility + employability through micro-credentials

VCU Division of Student Affairs

Contacts: Kelsey Jones – jonesk66@vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Voter engagement/education between students and community members
- Pathways opportunities for our living learning communities

“These are high-impact ways/opportunities for students to put their leadership in action with community partners.”

VCU Department of Psychology

Contact: Caroline Cobb, cobbco@vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Community-informed smoking cessation
- Youth substance use prevention (vaping and other drugs) in schools and elsewhere

VCU Institution for Drug and Alcohol Studies

idas.vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Substance use prevention and treatment orgs
- material / health services
- Social services

VCU Massey Comprehensive Cancer Center

masseycancercenter.org

Contact: Sam Burns, burnss3@vcu.edu

Rev. Rachel Pierce, piercer2@vcu.edu , 804-239-7037

Partnering Around:

- AI education (**Sam Burns**)
- Disability + Accessibility (**Sam Burns**)
- Professional development for health/medicine (**Sam Burns**)
- Faith & health (**Rev. Rachel Pierce**)
- The intersection of faith (love in action) and community needs (**Rev. Rachel Pierce**)
- Helping build bridges between the community & faith leaders (**Rev. Rachel Pierce**)

VCU Police Department

Contact: crimeprevreq@vcu.edu, Ashley Graves, gravesam2@vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Bystander intervention + safety education
- Community outreach and engagement programs
- Wellness supports

VCU School of Medicine

Nephrology / KARE: Kidney Awareness, Risk Education

Contacts: Amber Paulus, PhD, RN, CPHQ
Associate Chief Nephrology Research and Data Analytics
Sanger Hall
1101 East Marshall Street
(804) 827-1743
Amber.Paulus@vcuhealth.org

- **Partnering Around:**

- Community health screening / outreach / partnership
- Partnership for Health Education
- Support in obtaining a grant for CKD screening (diabetes / hypertension)

VCU Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research

www.cctr.vcu.edu
Contact: Leah Gregory MPH, MSW
Community & Collaboration Program Manager
gregorylh@vcu.edu

Partnering Around:

- Recruiting for our greater Richmond community advisory board
- Recruiting for the Va-AHEAD (community health dashboard) project
- building / connecting with community partners

VDH - Crater Health District

VDH.Virginia.gov/Crater
Contacts: Jazmine Black, (804)-385-6760, Jazmine.Black@VCH.Virginia.gov

- **Partnering Around:**

- Community resources and organizations committed to building community resilience
- Overdose Prevention
- STIs
- Health Outcomes
- Financial Resources
- Housing and Transportation
- Food Insecurity

