Dr. Jose G. Alcaine
Office of Research and Faculty Development
Research Interests: Higher education policy, university administration, university leadership, college access and funding, universities as change agents, and how universities interact with their surrounding communities in economic, social and regional development
Current Projects: Research development, programming, and institutional capacity

Dr. Christine L. Bae
Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Cognition, engagement, individual differences in learning, STEM education in diverse contexts
Current Projects: Middle school science education (PD, science instruction, and student engagement and learning), Urban Teacher Residency Model (elementary teaching, student outcomes in cognitive and affective domains), Retrieval-based study strategies for long-term retention

Dr. Thomas H. Beatty
Child Development Center
Research Interests: Early Childhood Education, Teacher Quality
Current Projects: Longitudinal Evaluation of Early Language, Cognition, and Mathematics (collaboration); Characteristics of Private Preschool Education Programs that Attract and Retain High Quality Teachers (student capstone)

Dr. Jon Becker
Department of Educational Leadership
Research Interests: Distance education - critical policy analysis; the student experience
Current Projects: I have a grant proposal out to do an autophenomenographic study of distance education. I have a massive dataset of tweets using "my online course/class" on which I will do a semantic analysis to see what students are saying on social media about their experiences with distance education. Finally, I am looking to do a critical policy analysis of the new Online Virginia Network.

Dr. Risha Berry
Office of the Dean
Research Interests: Institutionalized racism, structural racism, systems theory, poverty
Current Projects: Developing a prospectus for the iCubed Social Justice Core in collaboration with the School of Social Work and Wilder School; submitting articles for publication related to organizational containment (structural barriers Black principals may encounter related to their career pathway)
Dr. Mike Broda  
Department of Foundations of Education  
*Research Interests:* "Thorny" statistical problems (repeated measures, nested data, missing data, difficult to measure concepts), effective use of statistical modeling, randomized trials, technology use as intervention  
*Current Projects:* A few - examining the longitudinal development of self-efficacy in elementary and secondary writers; examining the relationship between perfectionism, social support, and anxiety/depression in VCU undergrads; examining the predictors of social wellbeing for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Dr. Jason Chow  
Department of Counseling and Special Education  
*Research Interests:* Language development, math intervention, cognition, classroom behavior, meta-analysis, learning sciences  
*Current Projects:* Developmental studies in math, language, and cognition, meta-analyses, relations between mathematical knowledge, anxiety, and teaching, behavior management interventions for speech-language pathologists, teacher language complexity and mathematical input

Dr. Katherine Dabney  
Department of Teaching and Learning  
*Research Interests:* Formal and informal educational experiences that influence achievement, literacy and eventually persistence in science-related career fields, especially among underrepresented groups in STEM  
*Current Projects:* NSF AISL Project EXPLORE (Exploring Longitudinal Research on Out-of-school Time Experiences in STEM)

Dr. Andrew Daire  
Dean's Office  
*Research Interests:* Couple and family stress and its influence on health outcomes. Secondary research area is in the application of career development theory and interventions with STEM recruitment and retention.  
*Current Projects:* I have data from a previous grant with over 6,000 participants where we examine the impact of brief couple and relationship education (CRE) interventions on individual and couple stress, influence of CRE interventions on those with chronic illness, and strategies to increase family and economic stability and mobility in economically marginalized populations.

Carla Dannouf  
Literacy Institute – VALRC  
*Research Interests:* Grants management  
*Current Projects:* Grant administration
Dr. Parthy Dinora  
Partnership for People with Disabilities  
*Research Interests:* Family decision making about services and supports for children with disabilities, intervention research for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) (abuse prevention, health literacy), predictors of enhanced outcomes for adults who use Medicaid I/DD services, research/evaluation methods & measures that address the specific needs of adults with I/DD  
*Current Projects:* Intervention research for adults with I/DD (abuse prevention, health literacy); predictors of enhanced outcomes for adults who use Medicaid I/DD services; several projects related to adult services and supports for people with I/DD

Dr. Terry Dozier  
Center for Teacher Leadership/Dept. of Teaching and Learning  
*Research Interests:* Mentoring; teacher leadership; residency model of teacher preparation; National Board Certification  
*Current Projects:* Richmond Teacher Residency; Support for teachers going through National Board Certification; teacher leadership training; New Teacher Center mentoring model; Clinical Faculty program

Dr. Brendan Dwyer  
Center for Sport Leadership  
*Research Interests:* Sport fan behavior, fantasy sport participation  
*Current Projects:* Dehumanization of NFL players, Retro sport marketing, and Athletic Identity and the Student-Athlete transition

Dr. Tomika Ferguson  
Department of Educational Leadership  
*Research Interests:* Equity and access, women of color (undergraduate), student-athletes, higher education  
*Current Projects:* Evaluating the success of the Black Athlete Sister Circle Program, K-12 administrators preparation for conversations about cultural awareness and race, equity within athletics

Dr. Philip Gnilka  
Department of Counseling and Special Education  
*Research Interests:* Personality, Perfectionism, Stress, Coping/Wellness, College Student Adjustment  
*Current Projects:* Perfectionism, Stress, Coping/Wellness projects
**Dr. Julie Gorlewski**
Department of Teaching and Learning  
*Research Interests:* Professional dispositions, critical theory, culturally sustaining pedagogies  
*Current Projects:* MERC Professional Development for Success in Culturally Diverse Schools, Using case study analysis to develop critical dispositions

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**Dr. Greg Greenhalgh**
Center for Sport Leadership  
*Research Interests:* Niche Sport, Sport Sponsorship  
*Current Projects:* Assessment of North American Sport Sponsor Objectives, Niche Sport Sponsorship's Ability to Reach Target Markets, Does fighting impact attendance in the NHL

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**Dr. Carrie LeCrom**
Center for Sport Leadership  
*Research Interests:* Sport for Development (social change); leadership in sport  
*Current Projects:* Sports Diplomacy grant, U.S. Department of State

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**Joanne Huebner**
The Literacy Institute at VCU/Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center  
*Research Interests:* Adult Learning and Development; Adult Literacy; Workforce Development; Adult English Language Learning  
*Current Projects:* Strategic Writing Instruction for Adults; Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education Professional Development/Leadership Grant; Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities Grant; VCCS Road to Success in Virginia Program Grant; VCCS SNAP Education & Training Grant

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**Dr. W. Monty Jones**
Department of Teaching and Learning  
*Research Interests:* Teacher learning of instructional technology, teacher learning of online and hybrid teaching, digital fabrication, maker technologies, maker-centered learning  
*Current Projects:* VCU Community Engagement Grant (3D printing in elementary classrooms), Maker-centered professional development for K-12 teachers, Exploring the perceptions of inservice teachers in a virtual field experience
Dr. Xun Liu
Department of Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Quantitative study; teacher and student relationship; resilience; coping
Current Projects: Quantitative studies

Dr. Jim McMillan
Department of Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Classroom assessment
Current Projects: Students' assessment mistakes; classroom assessment literacy

Dr. Bill Muth
Department of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: Qualitative, phenomenology, incarcerated fathers, multimodal literacy
Current Projects: Book on Family Reentry

Yali Pang
Partnership for People with Disabilities
Research Interests: Nonprofit management, Cultural agility, Social equity
Current Projects: Diversity Fellowship Project on Cultural Brokering Model for Culturally Diverse Families of Children with Disabilities

Dr. Hillary Parkhouse
Department of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: Youth activism, citizenship education, critical pedagogy, inclusive and just schooling
Current Projects: professional development for success in culturally diverse schools (MERC mixed methods study); undocuALLY teachers (qualitative case study); the impact of critical pedagogy on patriotism (ethnographic case study)

Dr. Maike Philipsen
Department of Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Faculty Work Life; Work-Life integration in Higher Education; Organizational Change
Current Projects: Immunity to Change: Why Higher Education is so Slow to Change
Dr. Gabriel Reich
Department of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: Historical consciousness, history assessment, history teaching
Current Projects: Study of 10th graders’ historical consciousness of Monument Avenue; design-based research study of history assessment PD; literature review of critical historical inquiry in secondary classrooms

Dr. Val Robnolt
Department of Teaching and Learning
Research Interests: Close reading as an instructional literacy strategy, ways of providing professional development
Current Projects: Close reading implementation project

Dr. Michelle Schmitt
Center for School-Community Collaboration/Dept. of Counselor and Special Education
Research Interests: Positive Youth Development; the avoidance of substance misuse, bullying, gang violence, delinquency, etc. After-school programming, Program development and evaluation
Current Projects: Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS; MTSS nationally)

Dr. Jesse Senechal
Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium/Dept. of Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Teacher Professionalism, Research Use, Equity and Social Justice

Dr. Genevieve Siegel-Hawley
Department of Educational Leadership
Research Interests: Relationship between schools and society, education policy, race and stratification in schools, school choice
Current Projects: Study of four Richmond area schools engaging in intentional policy and practice to support diverse and equitable education; study of race-conscious educational policies and civil rights under the Trump Administration, national study of the impact of school district secession on racial and economic segregation in schools and housing
Dr. Debbie Speece  
Office of the Dean/Department of Counseling and Special Education  
*Research Interests:* Non-experimental and experimental studies concerned with understanding variables that place children at risk for reading disabilities and interventions that may ameliorate that risk  
*Current Projects:* Studying the intersection of practice and research, and how the two can inform each other to improve outcomes for children and their families

Dr. Kevin Sutherland  
Department of Counseling and Special Education  
*Research Interests:* Intervention research; implementation research; fidelity measurement; intervention development  
*Current Projects:* BEST in CLASS - Elementary (small RCT); BEST in CLASS - Web (intervention adaptation/development); Measurement project (early childhood treatment integrity measures); Middle school violence prevention and positive youth development

Dr. Adai Tefera  
Department of Foundations of Education  
*Research Interests:* Equity in education, education policy/special education policy, knowledge mobilization/research use  
*Current Projects:* Racial disproportionality in the placement and disciplining of students of color in special education

Dr. Colleen Thoma  
Office of the Dean/Department of Counseling and Special Education  
*Research Interests:* Transition education/assessment; access to the general education curriculum in high school; postsecondary education for students with IDD; disability policy  
*Current Projects:* Cost-benefit analysis of postsecondary education; linking transition and academic education using a UDL/UDT approach; personnel preparation related to disability policy

Dr. Lisa Webb  
Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences/Department of Teaching and Learning  
*Research Interests:* Disability studies and access to higher education/underrepresented student services in health sciences  
*Current Projects:* Impact evaluation of VCU Pipeline Programs (qualitative study); Program evaluation of summer college readiness program for students who are blind or vision-impaired
Dr. Naomi Wheeler
Department of Counseling and Special Education
Research Interests: Family stress, health, ACE
Current Projects: Examine the role of ACE and couple distress for immune functioning and health

Dr. Jeff Wilson
Department of Educational Leadership
Research Interests: Diversity, Higher Education, Cultural Competency
Current Projects: Diversity Audit in higher education, cultural competency

Dr. Yaoying Xu
Department of Counseling and Special Education
Research Interests: Linking assessment to intervention, social validity in single subject research, social skills and language development of English learners
Current Projects: Project KSR

Dr. Sharon Zumbrunn
Department of Foundations of Education
Research Interests: Motivation, Self-Regulation, Writing, Participatory Action Research
Current Projects: Longitudinal Study of Student Writing Motivation and Self-Regulation; Strategic Writing Instruction for Adults; MetaScriptor: Using Technology for Mindful Writing
Affiliated Centers

**Center for School-Community Collaboration**
Director: Dr. Michelle Schmitt
Website: [http://www.csc.coe.vcu.edu/](http://www.csc.coe.vcu.edu/)
Our Center for School-Community Collaboration helps address social and community issues (such as bullying, youth alcohol/drug use, and youth violence) that can affect children’s performance in schools.

**Center for Sport Leadership**
Director: Dr. Carrie LeCrom
Website: [http://scpleadership.vcu.edu/](http://scpleadership.vcu.edu/)
The Center for Sport Leadership provides practical, hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for successful careers within the sport industry.

**Center for Teacher Leadership**
Director: Dr. Terry Dozier
Website: [http://www.ctl.vcu.edu/](http://www.ctl.vcu.edu/)
Our Center for Teacher Leadership believes that one of the fastest ways to improve student learning is to support and develop the teachers themselves, transforming them into confident, passionate leaders.

**Child Development Center**
Interim director: Dr. Thomas Beatty
Website: [http://www.cdc.coe.vcu.edu/](http://www.cdc.coe.vcu.edu/)
The Child Development Center offers full-day care and developmentally-appropriate education for the families of VCU faculty, staff and students.

**Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium**
Interim director: Dr. Jesse Senechal
Website: [http://www.merc.coe.vcu.edu/](http://www.merc.coe.vcu.edu/)
The Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium connects the VCU School of Education with seven local school divisions in order to plan and conduct research (and disseminate findings) that directly address school and community needs.
Affiliated Centers

**Partnership for People with Disabilities**
Director: Dr. Donna Gilles  
Website: [http://www.partnership.vcu.edu/](http://www.partnership.vcu.edu/)

The goal of the Partnership for People with Disabilities is to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by helping them become more self-sufficient at home, at work and in their communities.

**Rehabilitation Research and Training Center**
Director: Dr. Paul Wehman  

Our Rehabilitation Research and Training Center aims to improve employment opportunities and quality of life in the workforce for individuals with disabilities.

**The Literacy Institute**
Director: Cynthia Hutchinson (ExCELL)  
Director: Joanne Huebner (VALRC)  
Website: [http://www.theliteracyinstitute.org/](http://www.theliteracyinstitute.org/)

The aim of The Literacy Institute at VCU is to combat the issue of illiteracy in Virginia. A partnership between the School of Education, VCU’s Center for Public Policy and the Virginia Literacy Foundation, The Literacy Institute conducts research and creates programs to tackle illiteracy across all ages — from early childhood to adult education.