

# VCU School Of Education

## *Affiliated Centers*



**The VCU School of Education has eight affiliated centers and institutes that connect students and faculty to the field of practice. These centers provide services to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and reach every corner of the state and beyond through research programs, trainings, resources and events.**

### **Center for School-Community Collaboration**

The CSCC assists Virginia schools, communities, and government agencies in responding to emerging needs in prevention of unhealthy youth behaviors and promotion of positive outcomes. The center provides training programs for school personnel, parents and community leaders that focus on the prevention of youth alcohol and drug misuse, youth violence, gang activity, school crisis, bullying, truancy and school drop-out.

### **Center for Sport Leadership**

The Center for Sport Leadership is committed to the education and preparation of future professionals in the public and private sectors of the sport industry. By focusing on our core values (collaborative, empowering, global minded, accountable, authentic), we work toward developing students who will become the next generation of leaders in coaching and administration of sport. The CSL offers a M.Ed., M.Ed./MBA (dual degree) and Ph.D. in Education, Sport Leadership track.

### **Center for Teacher Leadership**

The CTL promotes and supports teacher leadership in order to improve teaching and learning by advancing the concept of teachers as change agents; providing high-quality training to develop passionate, effective leaders; and sharing the knowledge, experience, and insight of teachers with policymakers and other stakeholders. Programs include: National Board Certification Candidate Support Program for teachers seeking advanced certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; Clinical Faculty Program that identifies exemplary teachers who want to work with VCU student teachers, and prepares them as effective mentors; Richmond Teacher Residency, a partnership between VCU and Richmond Public Schools, designed to recruit, prepare, support, and retain extraordinary, inspiring teachers who are committed to RPS for the long-term.

## **Child Development Center**

With over 100 years of history, the VCU Child Development Center is a full-day, inclusive young children's program, which provides high-quality care and education for the children of VCU faculty, staff, and student families. Our unique relationship with the School of Education allows us to serve as a learning lab for student pre-service experiences, faculty research, and community outreach and education. The CDC is one of only 12 centers in Richmond that hold the NAEYC accreditation, nationally recognized as the "gold standard" marker of quality in early childhood programs.

## **Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium**

MERC was established in 1991 as a partnership between the School of Education and Richmond area public school systems. MERC's mission is to improve teaching and learning by conducting and disseminating collaborative, community-engaged research on topics of interest that are identified by practitioners. MERC disseminates information to enhance educational leadership and the improvement of teaching and learning in metropolitan educational settings. MERC provides services to over 12,000 teachers in seven school divisions. Projects include full research studies research and reports, white papers, seminars, conferences, and program evaluations.

## **Partnership for People with Disabilities**

The Partnership is a federally designated university center for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research, and service. The Partnership, founded in 1985, is home today to more than 20 federal and state programs, staffed by more than 80 professionals, family members, people with disabilities, and university students supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. The Partnership works with people with disabilities, their families, state and local agencies, and community providers to enable individuals with disabilities to participate fully in their communities. Programs are in the areas of: early intervention and education, health, family and individual involvement support.

## **Rehabilitation Research and Training Center**

Established in 1983, the RRTC provides resources for professionals, individuals with disabilities, and their representatives. It supports developing and advancing evidence-based practices to increase the hiring and retention for individuals with disabilities. The five focus areas of RRTC are: employment research, transition and post-secondary education, autism spectrum disorders, social security benefits and business services. Examples of projects include: ACE-IT in College, Autism Center for Excellence, Virginia Autism Resource Center.

## **The Literacy Institute at VCU**

The Literacy Institute, a partnership between the Virginia Literacy Foundation, the VCU School of Education, and Center for Public Policy, was formed in 2002 to ensure that Virginia's public policy makers are kept aware of the problem of illiteracy in the commonwealth, and to directly combat that problem through research and development projects. The institute advances the quality and accessibility of literacy instruction and support services across the lifespan through professional learning, research and development, evaluation, and public policy. Programs include: the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, pluggedinva.com, and Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy.