



VCU

School of Education
Minority Education Center

Equity: The Newsletter

October 2021



Dr. LaRon Scott was one of the six outstanding educators and researchers honored during VCU's 2021 Faculty Convocation

Congrats Dr. Scott!

MERREC's Executive Director Dr. LaRon Scott was recently awarded the University Award of Excellence back in September. The annual awards recognize faculty for their teaching, scholarship and service.

Dr. Scott's research focuses on postsecondary transition experiences for youth of color with an intellectual and developmental disability. His work has been funded by more than \$6 million in grants including our Center which aims to improve society's respect for minoritized educators.





From left, Dr. Kathleen Rudasill, Senior Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Dr. Tomika Ferguson, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Inclusive Excellence, Dr. Faith Wilkerson, Program Director for MERREC, Dr. LaRon Scott, Executive Director for MERREC, Mr. Rodney Robinson, Sr. Advisor Teacher Pathways for Richmond Public Schools

DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

The Minority Educator Recruitment, Retention and Equity Center (MERREC) recently kicked off a new initiative called the Distinguished Fellows.

The program was launched in partnership with Rodney Robinson, 2019 National Teacher of the Year and VCU School of Education alum. The goal of Distinguished Fellows is to develop prospective middle and high school students, preservice, and current teachers from underserved, socio-economically disadvantaged, and educationally at-risk backgrounds. Its aim is to create pathways to diversify the teacher workforce through mentorship, development of leadership skills, character development, and a safe space for individuals to learn and grow together.

We are now accepting applicants for the 2021-22 academic school year. Please apply via our online form.

MERREC Professional Development Series: *Strategies to promote a Culturally Diverse PK-12*

We invite you to join us in an interactive and reflective virtual space to deepen our understanding of race, racism, and systemic inequities. Collectively, we will challenge the underlying structures that uphold racism and will develop dispositions to demonstrate antiracist actions within our personal and professional environments.

Registration includes 9 sessions presented by prominent scholars in the area of racial equity, as well as a personal/professional antiracist assessment, and microcredential after completion. [Register Here](#)



The Minority Educator Recruitment, Retention and Equity Center, in partnership with the Office of Strategic Engagement, is launching the first Strategies to Promote a Culturally Diverse PK-12 Teaching Workforce series. This five-part series addresses attracting, supporting, and retaining educators of color through a culturally responsive lens.



Five sessions to include a personal/professional assessment and microcredential after completion. All sessions held via Zoom.

Registration: \$250

Kick Off Session: Role of schools, districts, institutions of Higher Education, and Policymakers in Diversifying the Teacher Workforce October 6, 2021 - 4:30-6:15 p.m.	
Community and School Partnerships (Attracting Teachers of Color) November 3, 2021 4:30-6:15 p.m.	Understanding and Establishing Grow Your Own Programs (Teacher Residency Programs) December 1, 2021 4:30-6:15 p.m.
Deconstructing Culturally Responsive Mentoring and Induction Supports January 19, 2022 4:30-6:15 p.m.	Beginning Affinity Groups for Teachers of Color February 2, 2022 4:30-6:15 p.m.

Register at bit.ly/DiverseTeacherSeries

Hosted by MERREC with support of the Office of Strategic Engagement



Contact us at soe@vcu.edu
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Upcoming Events:

October 15, 2021

A virtual symposium, Enacting Anti-Bias Teaching and Leadership: Practical Applications and Advocacy in our Schools and Communities.

Register [here](#).

October 22, 2021

Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC), a center affiliated with the School of Education, 18th annual Conference Register here.



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