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.
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]

### 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]