



Centers & Institutes

Connecting VCU Faculty and Students with Practice



Eight centers and institutes 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.

Our research initiatives capitalize on Virginia Commonwealth University's growing national leadership in many fields of research and scholarship and accelerate transformative innovation. Our faculty, centers and programs generated more than \$40 million in new sponsored funding for fiscal year 2023. Since 2011, VCU has been classified as R1, and as one of the top-tier research universities in the United States.

Our Centers

- Center for Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education
- Center for Teacher Leadership
- Child Development Center
- Family & Community Empowerment Center
- Institute for Collaborative Research and Evaluation
- International Educational Studies Center
- Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

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#16 BEST
public school of education
U.S. News & World Report (2024)

#11 in Education
Research
National Science Foundation
Higher Education Research and
Development Survey 2022

\$147 million*
in total new research
funding for FY23

\$40.1 million
new research funding in FY23

* represents total cumulative amount of all currently active awards as of FY23



Centers & Institutes

Center for Innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education (CISTEME)

Dedicated to cultivating a lifelong passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) among K-12 students in Central Virginia, CISTEME fosters a deep-seated passion for these subjects. Beyond building careers, its mission is constructing a brighter, more equitable world where opportunities are boundless and dreams are within reach.

soe.vcu.edu/centers/center-for-innovation-in-stem-education

Center for Teacher Leadership (CTL)

By advancing the concept of teachers as change agents, the CTL promotes and supports teacher leadership to improve teaching and learning. CTLs high-quality training develops passionate, influential leaders, and promotes the sharing of teachers' knowledge, experience and insight with policymakers and other stakeholders. ctl.vcu.edu

Child Development Center (CDC)

With more than 100 years of history, the CDC is a full-day, inclusive young children's program that provides high-quality care and education. CDC serves as a learning lab for student preservice experiences, faculty research, and community outreach and education. cdc.soe.vcu.edu

Family & Community Empowerment Center (FCEC)

Launched in 2023, the FCEC brings together scholars from many backgrounds with the goal to empower community members, particularly individuals who have been historically marginalized, through collaborative action and mental health support. The FCEC provides services and programming, including counseling, with the goal to develop well-being and peace of mind with individuals, families, and communities. fcec.soe.vcu.edu

Institute for Collaborative Research and Evaluation (ICRE)

ICRE improves outcomes for individuals, organizations and communities through its comprehensive research and evaluation services. ICRE is an expansion of the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium (MERC), a longstanding research practice partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education and PK-12 public school districts in the Richmond, Virginia region. ICRE provides support for nonprofit organizations, PK-12 school districts, private schools, governmental agencies, and institutions of higher education. ICRE's unique approach combines rigorous methodologies with collaborative stakeholder engagement, leading projects that address critical issues in education and community development. Projects span areas such as teacher residency models, career pathways, student mental health and more, many with national funding from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education. icre.soe.vcu.edu

International Educational Studies Center (IESC)

The IESC provides various educational and cultural opportunities for scholars, educators and students worldwide to explore foundational and culturally meaningful topics in education and related fields. The IESC strives for an educational community that encourages dynamic intellectual dialogues among all stakeholders responsible for educating individuals from every background. iesc.soe.vcu.edu

Partnership for People with Disabilities (PPD)

The PPD is Virginia's federally-designated University Center for Excellence in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Operating 48 projects across various domains – including community living, early intervention, education and health – PPD empowers individuals with disabilities and their families to lead self-determined lives. partnership.vcu.edu

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC)

The RRTC focuses on transition and employment for persons with disabilities. Through its research, training and technical assistance, direct service, and dissemination activities, RRTC profoundly influences policy, practice and outcomes at both state and national levels. vcurrtc.org