



VIRGINIA CENTER FOR
**INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITIES**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KENNETH R. GARREN NAMED CHAIR OF THE 50th ANNUAL
LYNCHBURG HUMANITARIAN AWARDS DINNER**

LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA - The Lynchburg Chapter of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities announces that **Dr. Kenneth R. Garren** will serve as the chair for the 50th Annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner to be held on Thursday, June 1, at Lynchburg College. He will assume the leadership role in honoring individuals who have made significant humanitarian contributions to the Central Virginia community.

President of Lynchburg College since 2001, Dr. Garren brings to the office 45 years of higher education experience including service as a vice president and dean for academic affairs, associate dean, and professor of mathematics. During Dr. Garren's tenure as president, Lynchburg College's enrollment has grown at an impressive rate: 32% at the undergraduate level and 169% in graduate programs. A native of Augusta, Georgia, he earned his baccalaureate degree in mathematics from Roanoke College, his master's degree in mathematics from The College of William and Mary, and his PhD in mathematics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Dr. Garren was involved in the early days of the U.S. space program as an aerospace engineer, working on the Apollo and Gemini projects at NASA's Langley Research Center. He also served as a member of the famed 29th Infantry Division of the Army National Guard, beginning his service as a private and finishing his distinguished military career with the rank of Colonel, Infantry, United States Army Reserve. Widely recognized locally and nationally for his leadership in higher education and the community, Dr. Garren currently serves on the Boards of Directors of the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, Educational & Institutional Insurance Administrators, the Council of Colleges & Universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Legislative Affairs Committee of the Lynchburg Regional Alliance Chamber of Commerce, and the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation.

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success by addressing prejudices, in all forms, in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. Through workshops, retreats, and customized programs that raise knowledge, motivation, and skills, VCIC develops leaders who work together to achieve success across the Commonwealth. The 82-year-old organization delivers local programs to educators and students in Lynchburg and Central Virginia through its Project Inclusion and Diversity Dialogue Day programs, and VCIC leads sessions for local groups including Centra, Leadership Lynchburg, Lynchburg City Schools, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, Randolph College, and others.

For more information about the organization or the event, contact Jonathan Zur, President & CEO, or the staff at 804-515-7950.

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