



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **OPERATION UNDERSTANDING HAMPTON ROADS PROGRAM RELAUNCHED**

*Transformational Experience for African American and Jewish Teenagers  
to Be Coordinated by 5 Community Organizations*

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities proudly announces the relaunch of Operation Understanding Hampton Roads (OUHR), a year-long leadership development program that will commence in 2016 for 40 African American and Jewish high school students in the Tidewater area of Virginia.

Over the course of the OUHR year, high school student participants build understanding, respect, and friendship through monthly workshops and a four-day summer Civil Rights trip to sites in the Farmville and Richmond areas. OUHR participants develop their personal strengths, share one another's cultures and religions, and enhance their leadership abilities. Sophomores and juniors are invited to submit applications to participate in this prestigious program. Applications will be accepted through February 1, 2016.

"Operation Understanding Hampton Roads will play a critical role in preparing students to be inclusive leaders in their schools and community," states Jonathan Zur, President & CEO of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. "At a time when hurtful rhetoric, bullying, and prejudice create divisions and barriers in our society, OUHR invests in students who will develop life-long skills in communication and leadership across lines of difference."

OUHR was originally conducted from 1998-2006, and is being led in 2016 by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, along with coalition partners the Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, Tidewater Jewish Foundation, Urban League of Hampton Roads, and the YWCA of South Hampton Roads.

For more information about Operation Understanding Hampton Roads or to obtain an application form, visit [www.inclusiveva.org/ouhr](http://www.inclusiveva.org/ouhr).

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***The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. For more information, call the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities at (804) 515-7950 or visit [www.inclusiveva.org](http://www.inclusiveva.org).***