

**Harold M. Marsh, Sr.
Connections Institute
Celebrates 25 Summers**



1993 Group Photo

In the summer of 1993, a group of high school students came together to participate in an innovative summer program called “Metrotown.” This weeklong institute was designed to help students build relationships across

lines of difference and develop skills to reduce stereotypes and prejudice. That program was so successful that today, thousands of high schools students from across Virginia are alumni of that same experience, now known as the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute.

As this high school retreat celebrates 25 years, it is powerful to reflect on the impact of the Metrotown/Connections experience. Alumni are elected officials, clergy, educators, business leaders, healthcare administrators, nonprofit executives, community volunteers, and more. One graduate even now serves on the Virginia Center for Inclusive

Communities’ State Board of Directors. Graduates continue to apply what they learned from VCIC within their spheres of influence to make Virginia a more inclusive place.

A new delegation of high school students will attend the 25th anniversary Connections Institute from July 30 – August 3, 2018. We can’t wait to see what they accomplish!



2017 Group Photo



5511 Staples Mill Road, Suite 202
Richmond, VA 23228

Phone: (804) 515-7950
Fax: (804) 515-7177
Email: contact@inclusiveVA.org
Web: www.inclusiveVA.org

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Project Inclusion Supports Students from Awareness to Action

“It was the best place I’ve been all my life!” That’s how one Virginia high school student described VCIC’s Project Inclusion retreat. Conducted for a single school or district, Project Inclusion helps high school students explore issues of

diversity and prejudice, gain insight into their own lives and values, and develop action plans to share their learning with their sending schools. Administrators have credited Project Inclusion with improving school climates, reducing incidents of bullying and violence, and building stronger connections between students and educators. The Virginia

Center for Inclusive Communities is scheduled to conduct four Project Inclusion retreat programs during the 2018-2019 school year.



SCHOOLS



Workplace Inclusion Network Convenes & Educates Organizational Leaders

Fifteen organizations, including Fortune 500 companies, foundations, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations are participants in the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities’ 2018 Workplace Inclusion Network. WIN programs provide a unique opportunity for diversity and inclusion leaders to hear from experts in the field and share best practices with one another while networking with professionals

from across the region. 2018 topics include religious diversity, expanding the race conversation, microaggressions in the workplace, and navigating difficult dialogues in the current political climate.



BUSINESSES



Advocates for Racial Justice Learn and Take Action Together

In the summer of 2015, a group of concerned citizens in Hampton Roads reached out to ask if the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities would facilitate a dialogue series to improve race relations. Over the last three years, the group has grown to average 20 people in attendance for bimonthly meetings. Participants build trust,

gain awareness, and identify opportunities to take action. In early 2018, this dialogue group renamed as “Advocates for Racial Justice,” reflecting their commitment to take action to improve the community. As a first topic of focus, they are learning about the city’s plans for the Saint Paul’s area of Norfolk by hearing from elected officials and local residents. Participants will then identify individual and collective actions that they wish to take as informed citizens committed to racial justice.

**VIRGINIA
INCLUSION
SUMMIT**
JANUARY 25, 2019

**SAVE THE DATE:
Virginia Inclusion
Summit**

The Virginia Inclusion Summit will bring together higher education students and administrators, workplace professionals, and government employees for a day of learning, sharing, and connecting.

Date: January 25, 2019
Time: 8:30am – 4:30pm
Location: Workforce Development & Conference Center
J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Parham Road Campus

**For more information
inclusiveVA.org/
inclusionsummit**

COMMUNITIES

