



MEDIA ADVISORY
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RICHMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS & EDUCATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN VCIC EDUCATIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE RETREAT

For the sixth time, teams of educators from Richmond Public Schools (RPS) will participate in the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' "Educational Equity Initiative" retreat. Representatives from Boushall Middle School, Eklhardt-Thompson Middle School, Huguenot High School, and George Wythe High School will represent RPS at the program, scheduled to take place from July 22-25 at Sweet Briar College.

This intense four-day summer retreat was created by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities to share strategies on how to develop more inclusive and equitable learning communities. RPS educators will learn about how bias and prejudice can affect learning and teaching. Through interactive workshops and small group discussions, participants will develop new approaches to create a supportive learning environment for students from all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. At the conclusion of the retreat, educators will design action plans for schools, focusing on closing gaps in opportunity and achievement, and on creating an inclusive school atmosphere.

Along with this retreat, VCIC will provide additional support to these four schools throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Past participating schools have seen significant reductions in discipline referrals, increases in family engagement, and improvements in school climate. Funding support for the 2019-2020 retreat and follow-up is generously provided by the Brookfield 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 throughout the Commonwealth.

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