

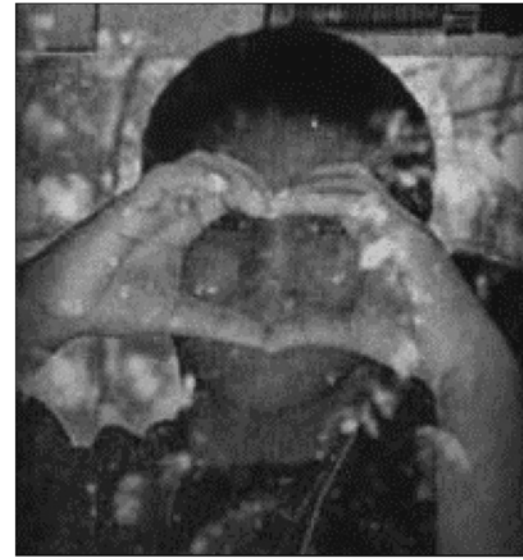
20/20 Campaign to Raise Awareness & Support

Program Alumni Join VCIC Board & Chapter Leaders to Give Back to Inclusive Communities

For the second year, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities will hold the 20/20 Campaign to support “A Vision for a More Inclusive Virginia.” Launched in 2013 in honor of the 20th anniversary of the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute, the campaign engages VCIC board and chapter members along with program alumni and volunteers to find 20 friends to give \$20 during a 20-day period.

Participating fundraisers are able to share their personal message about why they support the mission and work of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. As a high school student who recently participated in a VCIC program noted, “Connections meant the world to me and the least I can do to say thank you is to help fundraise.”

The 2014 campaign launches on August 20. “As we look towards another school year during which VCIC works to reduce bullying and stereotypes, we are grateful for the many supporters of the 20/20 Campaign who advance a vision of a more inclusive Virginia,” states Daniel J. Cawley, VCIC State Board Chair. Learn more about this fundraising and “friend-raising” effort by visiting www.inclusiveva.org/2020.



20/20 CAMPAIGN: A VISION FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE VIRGINIA

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VOICES of INCLUSION

A NEWSLETTER OF THE VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

SUMMER 2014

VCIC Anti-Bullying Conference Raises Awareness and Skills Statewide Gathering of Educators Features Interactive Presentations and Student Panel

Schools across Virginia continue to grapple with the significant challenge of bullying. In an effort to support educators, administrators, counselors, and other youth-serving professionals in creating inclusive school environments, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities held its first Anti-Bullying Conference on March 14, 2014. Generously hosted by Thomas Nelson Community College, the program aimed to raise awareness of the underlying factors that can lead to bullying, empower educators to be able to identify and effectively address incidents of bullying, and provide practical tools to increase inclusion in schools.



Over 80 attendees were captivated by keynote speaker Dr. Michael Fowlin (*pictured above*), who presented his one-man show, “You Don’t Know Me... Until You Know Me.” Concurrent breakout sessions were led by The Conciliation Project, the National Center for the Prevention of Community Violence, ProfoundThought Entertainment, the Richmond Peace Education Center, ROSMY, and the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. In addition, high school student graduates of VCIC’s Project Inclusion program shared their thoughts about bullying during a Student Perspectives Panel, and the day concluded with a “Taking it Back” workshop to prepare attendees to be able to apply their learning.

Feedback from the VCIC Anti-Bullying Conference was outstanding, with one participant commenting that, “The student panel was extremely valuable. The students’ perspectives I thought were refreshing and informative.” Another added, “Please, please make this an annual event!! (We would drive anywhere for this!)”

Major Grant Support Leads to Program Growth

Foundations Advance VCIC’s Work with Schools, Businesses, and Communities

Community and corporate foundations across the Commonwealth are increasingly contributing to the work of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. Over the last eight years, the amount of annual grant support provided to VCIC has increased by over 300%. Grants of varying sizes have contributed significantly to the organization’s program growth and outreach, as well as internal capacity building. Foundations are particularly complimentary of VCIC’s unique program methodology, and to the measurable outcomes that come from the organization’s work.

“The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities could not survive — much less thrive — without the generous dedicated support of individuals and organizations,” states Jonathan C. Zur, President & CEO. “We are particularly grateful for the large investments that foundations are making to help schools, businesses, and communities achieve success through inclusion.”

See a list of recent grants received by Inclusive Communities on page 3.



Message from the President & CEO

Jonathan C. Zur

One of my greatest joys at VCIC is hearing from past program participants and community supporters. They are able to express clearly and passionately why our work is so important and how it makes a difference. One person recently referred to the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' programming as "a magical process with measurable results." What a powerful and accurate description!

This magical process is brought about through carefully-crafted programs that rely on the most up-to-date educational research. And the results are making a real and lasting difference: VCIC program alumni have reduced bullying and harassment in schools, they have established programs at colleges and universities to create more respectful living and learning environments, and they have implemented inclusive policies and practices in their workplaces.

I know you agree that these are valuable contributions to Virginia's schools, businesses, and communities. And thanks to your support, VCIC is able to include even more people in this magical process that is making measurable differences all across our Commonwealth.

Eastern Virginia Regional Diversity & Inclusion Conference

Featuring a keynote presentation by VCIC President & CEO Jonathan C. Zur

October 23, 2014 | Chesapeake Marriott Register at www.hrpic.com

Sponsored by the Hampton Roads Diversity & Inclusion Consortium

Chapter News

- **Lynchburg Chapter** - Don Banker, CEO/Owner of Banker Steel Company, chaired the chapter's May 28, 2014 Humanitarian Awards Dinner. That event honored Carolyn W. Bell, Charlie C. Boyd, Jr., David B. Neumeyer, Diane M. Walker, and Gloria T. Witt. Local programs include Project Inclusion for local high schools, student leadership programming for area colleges, professional development for the City of Lynchburg, and a new "Achieving Success through Inclusion" series for local business leaders in partnership with the Office of Economic Development.
- **Peninsula Chapter** - Honorees for the chapter's 46th Humanitarian Awards Dinner were Molly Joseph Ward (receiving the Distinguished Virginian Award), Carolyn S. Abbitt, Louis G. Morris, Doretha J. Spells, and Vickie R. Williams-Cullins. The event was chaired by Robert W. George, D.D.S. and presented in association with the Daily Press. Project Inclusion sessions were held for Hampton City Schools and Newport News Public Schools. Additional programs include Diversity Dialogue Day, educator professional development, and presentations to local civic groups.
- **Richmond Chapter** - On October 27, 2014, the chapter will recognize Heidi W. Abbott, Edward L. Ayers, Neil S. Kessler, Cynthia I. Newbille, Florence Neal Cooper Smith, and ROSMY. Locally, the chapter is active with the Prejudice Awareness Summit and Diversity Dialogue Day for local students, along with the launch of the 2014-2015 Richmond Educational Equity Initiative for Richmond Public Schools. Additionally, workshops are being conducted for Leadership Metro Richmond, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Partnership for the Future, Randolph-Macon College, and VCU.
- **Tidewater Chapter** - The 50th Humanitarian Awards Dinner took place on March 27, 2014. Chaired by J. Jerry Kantor, that event honored Monica & Anthony Brothers, Jennifer N. Fish, Michael A. Glasser, Charles V. McPhillips, Rita D. Thomas, and Helping Orphans in Latin America (HOLA). The Virginian-Pilot/Pilot Media served as Print Media Sponsor. Programming in South Hampton Roads includes workshops for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission, and Virginia Wesleyan College.

Workplace Inclusion Network

Richmond-Area Businesses Benefit from Series

Professionals who lead or support diversity and inclusion efforts in their organizations are coming together through the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' Workplace Inclusion Network (WIN). Launched in 2014, WIN features bimonthly luncheons that are presented by local and national experts. These gatherings provide a unique opportunity for Richmond-area leaders to hear from speakers and share best practices with one another through networking opportunities.

"All of us at the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities are grateful to the inaugural WIN members for their investment in creating inclusive workplace environments," notes Allison M. Conyers, Vice President of Programs. "We look forward to expanding this program in the years to come to help businesses achieve success through inclusion."

More information about the WIN program can be found at www.inclusiveva.org/win.php. 2014 Workplace Inclusion Network members are:

WIN LEADERS

Bon Secours Virginia Health System
Genworth Financial
Owens & Minor
Virginia Commonwealth University

WIN SUPPORTERS

Allianz Global Assistance
CarMax
MeadWestvaco

Congratulations to Allison Conyers

Promoted to VCIC Vice President of Programs



The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities congratulates Allison M. Conyers on being promoted to Vice President of Programs. Allison joined VCIC in 2012, and she has successfully led several new program initiatives for schools, businesses, and communities. "Those who have worked with Allison have come to rely on her strong program design and facilitation skills, as well as her deep issue awareness," notes Jonathan C. Zur, President & CEO.

In her new role, Allison will continue to lead VCIC's program efforts, while also taking on new responsibilities in the areas of grant writing and strategic planning.

Recent Grants Support Inclusive Communities

- **Alexander Lebenstein Fund for Tolerance and Human Rights of the Richmond Jewish Foundation** - "Difficult Dialogues" workshop for a community organization
- **The CarMax Foundation** - The "Upstander Initiative" to address bullying in Richmond area middle and high schools
- **The Community Foundation Serving Richmond & Central Virginia** - Richmond Educational Equity Initiative to reduce achievement gaps
- **Dominion Resources** - Diversity Dialogue Day forums for high school students in Peninsula, Richmond, and Tidewater
- **Greater Lynchburg Community Trust** - Project Inclusion high school retreat for Lynchburg City Schools
- **Harry F. Wall Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation** - Project Inclusion follow-up program for Hampton City Schools
- **Michael B. Huntley Scholarship** - General youth program support in the Richmond area
- **R.E.B. Foundation** - Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute (statewide high school summer retreat program)
- **Richmond Gay Community Foundation** - New curriculum development for the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute
- **Riverside Foundation** - McKinley L. Price Action Grant Program for Newport News Public Schools Project Inclusion follow-up
- **SunTrust Foundation** - Program support for student workshops on diversity, inclusion, and financial literacy
- **Wells Fargo Foundation** - Prejudice Awareness Summit forum for Richmond-area middle school students and educators