



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JONATHAN ZUR 804-515-7950
JZUR@INCLUSIVEVA.ORG

VCIC Announces Recipients of 57th Annual Richmond Humanitarian Awards

*2019 Richmond Humanitarian Awards Dinner Presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
October 28, 2019 – Hilton Hotel & Spa/Short Pump.*

(Richmond, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Humanitarian Awards. This 57th presentation of the awards by the Richmond Chapter of VCIC will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019, at the Hilton Hotel & Spa in Short Pump. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations for making significant humanitarian contributions to the Richmond community.

The 2019 Richmond Humanitarian Awards Recipients

Danny TK Avula

Dr. Danny Avula is the Director of the Richmond City and Henrico County Health Departments. He is a public health physician specializing in pediatrics and preventive medicine, and he continues to practice clinically as a pediatric hospitalist, and is an Affiliate Faculty member at VCU. Dr. Avula was appointed by Governor McAuliffe to the State Board of Social Services in 2013 and served as Board Chair from 2017 to 2019. He currently serves on a number of community boards including Communities in Schools of Richmond and the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. His work has been featured nationally by the CDC, MSNBC, Christianity Today, and on the TED circuit with his TEDx talk entitled "Dependence isn't a Dirty Word."

Christy S. Coleman

Christy Coleman is the CEO of the American Civil War Museum. She has been instrumental in furthering discussion around the Civil War, its legacies, and its relevance to our lives today. Christy previously worked with Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, MI. She's written numerous articles, is an accomplished screenwriter, public speaker, and has appeared on several national programs. Most recently, Christy was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia Commonwealth University and the Honorary Doctor of Civil Law from the University of the South. In 2019, Time Magazine named her one of 31 People Changing the South and Worth Magazine named her one of 29 Women Changing the World.

Frances F. Goldman

Frances Goldman, JD, CPA, co-founded The Tax Complex, LC in 1995. She has over 30 years of tax experience in the preparation of trust, estate, gift, and individual income tax returns as well as income, post-mortem, and estate tax planning. Frances is devoted to her community and is actively involved with numerous organizations. She is past president of the Community Tax Law Project; chair of the Richmond Jewish Foundation; and has served as Treasurer and Chair of the Security sub-committee of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond. Frances is part of Altrusa International Women's Service Organization, Temple Beth-El (where she serves on the Endowment Committee); Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association; Estate Planning Council of Richmond, the Virginia Bar Association, and ABA.

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Catherine W. Howard Cathy Howard, Ph. D, recently retired as the Vice Provost for Community Engagement at Virginia Commonwealth University. In that role, she administered the Offices of Service-Learning and Community-Engaged Research, the ASPIRE living-learning program, neighborhood outreach, Virginia Mentoring Partnership, Council for Community Engagement, Mary and Frances Youth Center, and Bridging Richmond. Cathy also served as liaison between VCU and community entities. Her service to local organizations includes the 2020 Complete Count Committee for Richmond, the United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg, the Monroe Park Conservancy, RVA Street Singers, RVA Engage, Virginia Campus Compact, and Union Presbyterian Seminary. She is an active member of Second Presbyterian Church where she serves as a ruling elder.

Kenneth S. Johnson Kenneth S. Johnson is the CEO of Johnson, Inc. (JMI), a marketing and communications firm based in Richmond, Virginia that connects brands, cultures and communities. One of his passions is diversity and inclusion where JMI has supported more than 200 million dollars of minority business engagement across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In addition to leading JMI's D&I initiatives, Kenneth has also served as a diversity and inclusion consultant for Virginia Governors Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell as well as a vital transition team member for Governors McAuliffe and Northam. His participation on boards and philanthropic organizations includes: RVA Chamber, Executive Committee Member; University of Virginia McIntire School of Commerce, Board Member; Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Trustee; and Crossover Healthcare Ministries, Board Member.

The 2019 Richmond Distinguished Merit Award Recipient

The Valentine The Valentine has been collecting, preserving and interpreting Richmond Stories for more than a century. Offering the Richmond community bold exhibitions, in-depth tours, special events, innovative programming and more, the Valentine's staff is dedicated to engaging, educating, and challenging a diverse audience by using our past to inform the present and shape the future. William "Bill" Martin is the director of the oldest museum in Richmond and the only museum dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the city's diverse history. For 25 years, Bill has expanded the Valentine's programming, grown Richmond walking and group tours, and worked collaboratively in the community to support city tourism initiatives and promote the social, cultural, and educational importance of the 1.6 million objects in the Valentine's collection.

Fifty-seven years ago, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities - then called the National Conference of Christians and Jews - began a tradition in Richmond, "to honor the work of our friends, neighbors, and family members who gave to others the same rights, respect and dignity that they sought for themselves." Today, VCIC works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. The 84-year-old organization delivers programs to educators and students in the region through the Connections Institute, Prejudice Awareness Summit, Diversity Dialogue Day, and the Educational Equity Initiative. VCIC also provides professional development for many local businesses and nonprofit organizations, leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve success. In the last year, VCIC trained over 28,500 people across Virginia.

The 2019 VCIC Humanitarian Awards Dinner is sponsored by several organizations and individuals. Humanitarian-level sponsors include Bon Secours and Wells Fargo.

For more information about the organization or about reservations for the Awards Dinner on October 28, go to www.inclusiveVA.org.

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