



WE HAVE AN OFFICE REFRAIN –

*Collaboration is messy,
but the end result
is always much more
beautiful than if we had
just done it ourselves.*

A SIGN HANGS IN OUR OFFICE THAT SAYS “NO PROGRAMS WITHOUT PARTNERSHIPS.”

It is in relationships with students, program participants, campus and community partners, members of local and national groups, and our generous donors, that we are inspired and sustained. Those meaningful interactions form the heart and soul of the Center and enable us to grow and expand our impact. However you may be involved in the life of the Center, we are grateful for the opportunities that you give us to draw attention to and advance our mission.

Craig and Kelly

Interfaith partnerships & Kettering Foundation

Dr. Syed Ismail and Saher Mirza – friends from the Islamic Center of Tidewater – joined us at the Kettering Foundation Faith-Based Research Exchange in Ohio as 30 of us from across the nation focused on the important role that faith organizations can play in addressing shared challenges and building stronger communities.

First time & long-time

For the first time in its 83-year history, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) has expanded its physical presence beyond its Richmond home base, setting up an office on Virginia Wesleyan's campus, further establishing VWU as a central hub in Coastal Virginia for building regional collaboration and cooperation. We also express our gratitude for the VCIC's 20-year long partnership with the Nexus Interfaith Dialogue initiative.

United Jewish Federation of Tidewater

We are grateful for the partnership with the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater and with Community Relations Council Director Robin Mancoll. Their partnership brings world-renowned speakers to our campus and connects us locally in meaningful ways.

Community Solidarity

In January, we were part of a summit that brought the community together in solidarity against increases in hate speech and acts of violence. The summit was hosted by the local multi-faith clergy group Hands United Building Bridges and was held at the Simon Family Jewish Community Center. In March, many of the same people who had participated in the summit sorrowfully filled the Islamic Center of Tidewater to mourn the massacre of Muslims in New Zealand.

Iftar

In May, we joined with both Muslim communities in Coastal Virginia and the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities to host an Iftar, the meal that breaks the fast at sunset during Ramadan. We were heartened by the fellowship, by words from VWU President Scott Miller, and by the presence of several members of our faculty and staff.