

MEDIA ALERT July 30, 2021

<u>Contact</u>: Jessica Hawthorne Vice President of Programs Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities 804-495-1580; jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM ACROSS VIRGINIA GAIN AWARENESS OF DIVERSITY & PREJUDICE AT THE VIRTUAL INSTITUTE FOR BELONGING AND EQUITY

Richmond, VA – In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, 26 Virginia high school students will spend three days at the Virtual Institute for Belonging and Equity (VIBE) exploring how to reduce bullying and prejudice. Conducted by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, this program will help to prepare students to work toward creating more inclusive school and community environments. VIBE will take place from August 4 – August 6, 2021 virtually via Zoom.

"Through VIBE, student ambassadors will build skills to take on leadership in our increasingly diverse society," says Jonathan Zur, President & CEO of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities. "This program meets a significant need across our Commonwealth, particularly as schools work to reduce bullying and develop safe and supportive learning environments."

Students representing the following public school districts will be in attendance: Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Harrisonburg, Henrico, Powhatan, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg-James City County. In addition, students from private schools will be coming from the following communities: Farmville, Middleburg, Richmond, and Suffolk.

Funding support for the program is generously provided by Atlantic Union Bank and the R.E.B. Foundation. Participants can be made available for interviews from 11:15 – 12:00 on Friday, August 6.

For More Information: https://inclusiveVA.org/vibe2021

###