



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES RELEASES**  
**“BACK TO SCHOOL WITH BELONGING” GUIDE**

In preparation for the 2022-2023 school year, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities released a free “Back to School with Belonging” Guide today for educators across Virginia. The guide features evidence-based practices that promote inclusion in schools with sections focused on belonging, growth mindset, identity development, meaningful interactions, and representation. Additionally, forty-five links provide sample curriculum, activities, books, decorations, and more for educators to utilize in their classrooms.

“Creating an inclusive classroom starts before a student even steps foot in school and continues throughout the entire school year,” states Jonathan C. Zur, VCIC’s President & CEO. “When teachers create a safe space in which all students feel respected and included, students are more likely to enjoy school and succeed academically.”

This Guide was developed in partnership between the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities and students enrolled in Child Development (PSYC 311) with Dr. Karen Kochel, Associate Professor of Psychology, at the University of Richmond in Spring 2021 and 2022. This project was funded in part by the University of Richmond’s Bonner Center for Civic Engagement.

To access the “Back to School with Belonging” Guide, visit [www.inclusiveVA.org/belonging](http://www.inclusiveVA.org/belonging).

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