

# REGISTER FOR THE 2023 VIRGINIA INCLUSION SUMMIT

Join the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities at the 5th annual Virginia Inclusion Summit on September 18, 2023, at The Westin Richmond!

The Virginia Inclusion Summit brings together workplace professionals, government employees, higher education administrators, and students for a day of learning, sharing, and connecting. Attendees have the opportunity to explore timely issues and learn about best practices to help

institutions across Virginia become more inclusive.

One past VIS attendee stated, **“This was the 1st professional development I’ve attended in 11 years that I can honestly say: I’ve learned something today, I’ve learned about other’s views and... I’ve become a better professional after this.”**

Special thanks to Platinum Sponsor Allianz Partners, Gold Sponsor Altria Group, and Bronze Sponsor Markel.

Learn more and register at [www.inclusiveVA.org/VIS](http://www.inclusiveVA.org/VIS).

## VIRGINIA INCLUSION SUMMIT

Presented by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities



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# SUMMER UPDATE



Participants pose with Big Blue at VCIC's Tidewater Diversity Dialogue Day hosted by Old Dominion University



harold m. marsh, sr.

# connections institute

## MARKS 30 YEARS

In the summer of 1993, a group of high school students came together to participate in an innovative summer program called “Metrotown.” This

weeklong institute was designed to help students build relationships across lines of difference and develop skills to reduce stereotypes and prejudice. The program was so successful that today, thousands of high school students from across Virginia are alumni of that same experience, now known as the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute.

As this high school retreat celebrates 30 years in August 2023, it is powerful to reflect on the impact of the

Metrotown/Connections experience. Alumni are elected officials, clergy, educators, business leaders, healthcare administrators, nonprofit executives, community volunteers, and more. Two graduates have even served on the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities’ State Board of Directors! Graduates continue to apply what they learned from VCIC within their spheres of influence to make Virginia a more inclusive place.



## NONPROFIT LEADERS BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO ADVANCE INCLUSION

For the past three years, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has partnered with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to facilitate a six-part professional development series for nonprofit leaders. Through the workshops, participants build awareness and skills to advance inclusion within their organizations.

Evaluation feedback has been outstanding. Participants reported a 40% increase in knowledge of core issues connected to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and a 55% increase

in awareness of resources to help them advance racial equity in their organizations. One participant stated, **“The sessions were very well done and engaging. The content was thought-provoking with excellent terms of engagement for all participants. The tone was one of comfort for honest sharing.”** Another added, **“I found this to be an exceptional experience. I have grown not only professionally in these matters but also personally.”**



## INTERPRETATION EQUIPMENT SUPPORTS LANGUAGE JUSTICE

Almost 17% of Virginians over the age of 5 speak a language other than English at home. Particularly for non-English speakers, a lack of access to inclusive, multilingual spaces can have significant consequences. Medical care can be compromised if a physician does not understand how to culturally connect with a patient or family member. Schools that do not practice principles of language justice see poorer academic outcomes for non-English speaking students, lower rates of attendance, and limited parent and family engagement.

Since 2018, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has partnered with like-minded organizations in the Richmond region in an effort to advance language justice. Project components include making simultaneous interpretation headsets available to the community and mobilizing individuals who are interpreters, translators, allies, and advocates via training, organizing, and collaboration. Learn more about how to access headsets or connect with interpreters at [www.languagejusticerva.org](http://www.languagejusticerva.org).

