



## MEDIA ALERT

**Contact:**

**Jessica Hawthorne**

Vice President of Programs

Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

Office: (804) 495-1580; [jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org](mailto:jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org)

On-Site Cell Phone: (804) 495-1580

### Peninsula-Area High School Students to Explore Constructive & Inclusive Dialogue at 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Dialogue Day

**What:** Diversity Dialogue Day

**When:** December 6, 2023 from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Peninsula Center at Old Dominion University/Virginia Peninsula Community College

**Who:** High school students and educators from Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg-James City County, and York will come together in a hands-on workshop setting to learn lessons about diversity, dialogue and respect. Diversity Dialogue Day is sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities with support from Dominion Energy. Coalition Partners for the 2023 Peninsula Diversity Dialogue Day are Old Dominion University and the Literacy Lab.

**How:** This year's theme is "Constructive and Inclusive Dialogue," with a curriculum that will take participants through a process of awareness-to-action. Students will identify and practice skills that support healthy dialogue. They will work closely with their peers from a wide range of ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Trained facilitators will guide the students through a series of small group learning activities that explore personal experiences. Students will leave the program with tools they can use to create school and community environments free from the distractions of prejudice, stereotypes, and bigotry.

**For More Information:** <https://inclusiveVA.org/diversitydialogueday/>

**Interview Opportunities:** Members of the press are invited to visit the Diversity Dialogue Day at any time during the program. Parents/guardians have granted permission to photograph and interview students. Educators are also available for interview. *For interviews, the preferred visiting time is from 11:50am – 12:10pm. For programming, the preferred visiting time is from 9:00am - 10:15am.* Please contact Jessica Hawthorne by text or telephone at (804) 495-1580 or by e-mail at [jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org](mailto:jhawthorne@inclusiveVA.org).