

CULTIVATING BELONGING WITH SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

For the last two summers, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has facilitated multi-day, residential institutes for school librarians and library assistants. These institutes focused on the theme of “Cultivating Belonging in Schools.”

Program sessions addressed topics including inclusive relationship building with students, identity development, trauma-aware practices, and strategies to foster and measure belonging. Participants had the opportunity to assess their current practices in a

supportive environment and consider practical approaches that they can implement throughout the school year.

After the retreat, one participant shared, “Best experience in my 18 years in education! I learned so much about myself as well as all the knowledge I gained about the topics.” Another added, “This was fantastic. I’m so much more aware of belonging and being even more sensitive to my students.”



PROMOTING CONSTRUCTIVE AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUE



Constructive and inclusive dialogue has been a cornerstone of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities’ work dating back to our founding in 1935. Over eight decades later, the need for constructive and inclusive dialogue remains. In 2023, VCIC released a free “Guide to Constructive and Inclusive Dialogue,” featuring frameworks and tools to help individuals and institutions promote dialogue. VCIC also developed two workshops to accompany the Guide.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive to both the Guide and workshops. Based on the great responses and interest, VCIC selected Constructive and Inclusive Dialogue as the theme for the 2024 Diversity Dialogue Day forums for high school students and the 2024 Workplace Inclusion Network series for businesses and nonprofit organizations. At a time when Virginians seek out strategies to bridge divides and advance inclusion, VCIC is honored to be a trusted resource.



Scan the QR to access a digital version or visit www.inclusiveVA.org/CIDI.

6TH VIRGINIA INCLUSION SUMMIT – SEPTEMBER 5, 2024



The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to present the 6th annual Virginia Inclusion Summit on September 5, 2024 at The Westin Richmond!

The Virginia Inclusion Summit brings together workplace professionals, government employees, and 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. 2024 breakout sessions will focus on topics including “Building Trust within Workplaces,”

“Navigating Conflict and Promoting Empathy,” and “Taking Action to Advance Inclusion.”

100% of 2023 Virginia Inclusion Summit attendees reported being satisfied with their experience. One participant stated, “The quality of the sessions were all excellent. It is unusual in any event that every session hits the high mark but they all did.”

Special thanks to Platinum Sponsor Allianz Partners, Gold Sponsor Altria Group, and Bronze Sponsors Markel and Sentara (*at time of printing*).



Learn more and register at www.inclusiveVA.org/VIS.

CAMERON PATTERSON NAMED VCIC STATE BOARD CHAIR

When he was a high school student in Lynchburg City Schools, Cameron Patterson participated in one of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' award-winning retreat programs. Over twenty years since he was a VCIC participant, Cameron was recently elected Chair of VCIC's State Board of Directors. His term began July 1, 2024.

"I'm honored to serve as Chair of the State Board for the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities working alongside an amazing group of dedicated Board and Chapter colleagues," states Cameron. "This organization

has had a profound impact on me personally. I look forward to supporting an amazing staff that is doing important work each day across the Commonwealth."

Professionally, Cameron is Vice President for Student Affairs at Longwood University and Senior Partner for Strategic Initiatives at the Robert Russa Moton Museum. In addition to his service to VCIC, he is a member of several nonprofit Boards that focus on issues including health, education, and families.



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2024 SUMMER UPDATE