



# VCU School of Education

## Affiliated Centers

The VCU School of Education has **nine affiliated centers and institutes** that connect students and faculty to the field of practice. These centers provide services to the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia and reach every corner of the state and beyond through research programs, trainings, resources and events.

### International Educational Studies Center

[iesc.soe.vcu.edu](http://iesc.soe.vcu.edu)

The IESC mission is to provide a variety of educational and cultural opportunities for scholars, educators and students from around the world to explore foundational and culturally meaningful topics in education and related fields. The IESC is committed to fostering an educational community that encourages dynamic intellectual dialogues among all stakeholders who are responsible for the education of all individuals from diverse backgrounds.

### Center for Innovation in STEM Education

[soe.vcu.edu/centers/cisteme/](http://soe.vcu.edu/centers/cisteme/)

The CISTEME's mission is to inspire all students to make sense of and contribute to the world in which they live through hands-on investigations and innovation in STEM. Its vision is to empower students, particularly those from underserved and underrepresented populations, and the teachers who serve them to engage in high impact trans-disciplinary STEM learning experiences and become aware of similarly aligned STEM college and career opportunities.

### Minority Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Equity Center

[soe.vcu.edu/centers/merrec](http://soe.vcu.edu/centers/merrec)

MERREC is committed to leveraging resources and supports to VCU School of Education minoritized preservice and inservice educators of color. MERREC acknowledges that inequity exists for educators of color in higher education, K-12 institutions, and communities in part due to systemic and structural racism that has deep roots in our nation's education system. These inequities are exacerbated by the intersectionality of sociocultural identity markers, working conditions, societal conditions, and other factors that create additional hurdles and disparities that influence educational access and achievement for educators of color. MERREC believes equity is justice for all minoritized educators, especially our educators of color, and that correcting these deep-rooted injustices will improve the recruitment and retention pipeline for educators of color.

### Partnership for People with Disabilities

[partnership.vcu.edu](http://partnership.vcu.edu)

The Partnership is a federally designated university center for excellence in developmental disabilities education, research and service. The Partnership, founded in 1985, is home today to more than 20 federal and state programs, staffed by more than 80 professionals, family members, people with disabilities, and university students supporting individuals with disabilities and their families. The Partnership works with people with disabilities, their families, state and local agencies, and community providers to enable individuals with disabilities to participate fully in their communities. Programs are in the areas of: early intervention and education, health, family and individual involvement support.

## Child Development Center

[cdc.soe.vcu.edu](http://cdc.soe.vcu.edu)

With over 100 years of history, the VCU Child Development Center is a full-day, inclusive young children's program, which provides high-quality care and education for the children of VCU faculty, staff and student families. Our unique relationship with the School of Education allows us to serve as a learning lab for student pre-service experiences, faculty research, and community outreach and education. The CDC is one of only 12 centers in Richmond that holds the NAEYC accreditation, nationally recognized as the "gold standard" marker of quality in early childhood programs.

## Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium

[merc.soe.vcu.edu](http://merc.soe.vcu.edu)

Established in 1991 as a partnership between Richmond-area school divisions and Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Education, the Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium leads research that addresses enduring and emerging issues in PK12 education with the goal of informing policy, building the professional knowledge and skills of key stakeholders, contributing to the body of scholarly knowledge, and ultimately impacting outcomes relevant to students, schools and communities. Projects include full research studies, research and reports, white papers, seminars, conferences and program evaluations.

## Center for Teacher Leadership

[ctl.vcu.edu](http://ctl.vcu.edu)

The CTL promotes and supports teacher leadership in order to improve teaching and learning by advancing the concept of teachers as change agents; providing high-quality training to develop passionate, effective leaders; and sharing the knowledge, experience and insight of teachers with policymakers and other stakeholders. Programs include: National Board Certification Candidate Support Program for teachers seeking advanced certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; Clinical Faculty Program that identifies exemplary teachers who want to work with VCU student teachers, and prepares them as effective mentors; RTR Residency Program – Richmond, Petersburg, Chesterfield, and Henrico, a partnership between VCU and the divisions, designed to recruit, prepare, support and retain extraordinary, inspiring teachers who are committed to Richmond metropolitan area school systems for the long-term.

## Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

[soe.vcu.edu/centers/rrtc/](http://soe.vcu.edu/centers/rrtc/)

Established in 1983, the RRTC provides resources for professionals, individuals with disabilities, and their representatives. It supports developing and advancing evidence-based practices to increase the hiring and retention of individuals with disabilities. The five focus areas of RRTC are: employment research, transition and post-secondary education, autism spectrum disorders, social security benefits and business services. Examples of projects include: ACE-IT in College, Autism Center for Excellence, Virginia Autism Resource Center.

## The Literacy Institute at VCU

[theliteracyinstitute.org](http://theliteracyinstitute.org)

The Literacy Institute, a partnership between the Virginia Literacy Foundation, the VCU School of Education, and Center for Public Policy, was formed in 2002 to ensure that Virginia's public policy makers are kept aware of the problem of illiteracy in the commonwealth, and to directly combat that problem through research and development projects. The institute advances the quality and accessibility of literacy instruction and support services across the lifespan through professional learning, research and development, evaluation, and public policy. Programs include: the Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center, pluggedinva.com, and Excellence in Children's Early Language and Literacy (ExCELL).