



**BONNER CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**  
**YEAR IN REVIEW**  
**2024-2025**



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



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**KNOWLEDGE IS WORTH NOTHING IF YOU'RE NOT WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING AND BREATHING IN THESE COMMUNITIES.**

Lay'la Harmon, '25  
Bonner Scholar

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**83**

Bonner Scholars committed to sustained community engagement for 10 hours a week

**11**

Civic Fellows interned in summer 2024 with guidance from site supervisors and faculty advisors

**10**

Program Associates led civic engagement initiatives and hosted drop-in advising hours

**69**

student volunteers prepared 828 tax returns in 2024-2025 through our partnership with the Robins School of Business and United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, now in its fourteenth year

**687**

members of the Class of 2025 (82%) took at least one CBL course during their time at UR

## MISSION

The Bonner Center for Civic Engagement prepares students for lives of purpose and connects student, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders in social change efforts that value the knowledge and potential in our communities.

## VISION

The University of Richmond will be a vital partner to a thriving Richmond region, catalyzing lifelong learning and civic engagement.



▶ Nancy Barraza engages at Broad Rock Elementary School through David Giancaspro's Spanish for Heritage Speakers class.

# FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

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**IT REALLY MATTERS TO GET OFF CAMPUS AND MAKES WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IN A THEORETICAL SENSE COME TO LIFE.**

**Kerrissa MacPherson**

Adjunct Instructor of Healthcare Studies

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4

Bonner Faculty Fellows developed ongoing engaged faculty leadership structures

5

Richmond Cemetery Collaboratory members from UR partnered with VCU and community members in the cohort's eighth year

101

Course Support Grants awarded to 68 unique faculty in 2024-2025

*Arts & Sciences: 47*

*Business: 5*

*Leadership Studies: 3*

*Professional & Continuing Studies: 8*

*Law School: 5*

192

CBL courses were offered in 2024-2025

1,609

undergraduate students took at least one CBL course in 2024-2025

2

community-engaged research grant recipients, Dr. Todd Lookingbill and Dr. Stephanie Spera, worked with Southside ReLeaf and RVA Rapid Transit

## COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING MODES

### Service learning

is volunteerism that connects back to classroom learning

### Collaborative projects with community partners

include data analysis and research projects, producing community-engaged creative works (such as documentaries, murals, or exhibitions), organizational studies and consulting, and sharing course materials

### Internships, student teaching, or clinical education

is completed with a community partner, usually (but not always) for the duration of a semester

**Guest speakers** from the community come to class, usually to share their expertise and experience in a subject

**Study trips** include field trips, service trips, and participant observation and shadowing

*\*The numbers reported here exclude classes in which a guest speaker was the only CBL mode.*



► Faculty, staff, and students attend a bus tour featuring site discussed in *A People's Guide to Richmond and Central Virginia* by Melissa Ooten, director of the will program.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

## 85

community relationships sustained by the CCE in 2024-2025

## 311

young people from the Richmond region experienced campus through Pathways to a College Experience

## 74

special events for student, faculty, staff, and community learning and connection

## 2

Civic Action Conversations hosted on literacy, art, and affordable housing in collaboration with ChamberRVA, the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, PlanRVA, the VCU Center for Community Engagement, and VPM

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***WE REALLY PUT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK, SO THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND ALLOW US TO EXPAND THE IMPACT WE CAN HAVE.***

**Terri Erwin**

Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

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## ENGAGE FOR CHANGE AWARDS

### Service for Change Award

Izzy Blaylock, '25  
Nolan Richards, '25

### Community-Engaged Teaching Award

Kristin Bezio, Professor of Leadership Studies and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Jepson School

Colleen Carpenter-Swanson, Assistant Professor of Biology

### Community-Engaged Scholarship Award

Tom Shields, Associate Dean, School of Professional & Continuing Studies, and Associate Professor of Education and Leadership Studies, Jepson School

Stephanie Spera, Assistant Professor of Geography, Environment, & Sustainability

### Collaboration for Change Award

Scholars Latino Initiative

SEEDS (Students Engaging & Enacting Dialogue on Service)

### Contribution to the Institution Award

Rob McAdams, Director, Partners in the Arts

### Bill Coleman Award

Beth Zizzamia, GIS Operations Manager, Spatial Analysis Lab

### Community Educator Award

Janis Allen, President, Historic Jackson Ward Association

My Lan Tran, Executive Director, Virginia Asian American Chamber of Commerce



► Gina Lyles, founder and executive director of the The Hive, speaks at the Engage for Change Awards; Bonner Summer Leadership Institute participants explore Manchester with Plan RVA (Photograph by Siddharth Kumar); and Lucy Lew and Duncan Hall lead a Pathways to College Experience tour.

# CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS

Relationships with organizations in the region are the cornerstone of the Bonner Center for Civic Engagement's work. The CCE's Community Relationships Team collaborates with organizations to identify where University and community needs intersect across a variety of issue areas. The CCE was in regular communication with the following organizations in 2024-2025:

1708 Gallery	Real Life Program
American Red Cross	Richmond City Human Services
Armstrong Leadership Program	Richmond City Office of Sustainability
ART 180	Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity
Art for the Journey	Read to Them
Befriend	ReEstablish Richmond
Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia	Richmond City Council
Bridging the Gap in Virginia	Richmond Public Defender's Office
Boaz & Ruth	Richmond Public Schools
CARITAS	RPS Education Foundation
Rise Richmond	Richmond Symphony
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Richmond Performing Arts Alliance
CodeRVA Regional High School	Ronald McDonald House Charities
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	RVA Rapid Transit
Communities in Schools Richmond	RVA Works
Conner's Heroes	Sacred Heart Center
CrossOver Healthcare Ministry	Science Museum of Virginia
Early Impact VA	Shalom Farms
Feed More	Sierra Club
Friends of East End Cemetery	SOAR 365
Girls for a Change	State Council of Higher Education in Virginia
Girls on the Run Greater Richmond	Studio Two Three
Goochland Cares	The Descendants Council of Greater Richmond Virginia
Happily Natural Day	The Valentine
Health Brigade	The Doorways
Henrico Education Foundation	The Metropolitan Business League
Higher Achievement Richmond	The Virginia Home
Housing Opportunities Made Equal, Inc.	Tuckahoe YMCA
International Rescue Committee	United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg
IT4Causes	Virginia 21
James River Association	Virginia Anti-Violence Project
James River Parks	Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
Latinos en Virginia	Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Legal Aid Justice Center	Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
Library of Virginia	Virginia Holocaust Museum
Locus	Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Mentor VA	Virginia Museum of History & Culture
New Virginia Majority	Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Collaborative
Office of Community Wealth Building	Voices for Virginia's Children
Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth	Woodland Restoration Foundation
Peter Paul RVA	Youth Life Foundation of Richmond
PlanRVA	YWCA of Greater Richmond
Podium RVA	



**Bonner Center for  
Civic Engagement**