



Partnership for People with Disabilities

Hello!



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-Interim executive director of the Partnership.

-Been at the Partnership in various roles for 19 years have been focused on expanding research for the past 7 years

The Partnership

- *Virginia's University Center for Excellence in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (federally funded since 1985, 1 of 67 and the only one in Virginia).*
- *@120 staff, 40 projects, @ \$11+ million in federal and state funding, areas of emphasis **early childhood, education, health and community living***
- ***Work across VCU Arts, Business, Dentistry, Genetics, Nursing, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Education, Medicine, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work***



Mission

To partner with stakeholders in the intellectual and developmental disability community and faculty and staff throughout Virginia Commonwealth University to provide culturally competent and engaged research, education, direct services, and information sharing to ensure people with disabilities and their families can live, learn, work and play together as a part of their community.

How we address VCU strategic research goals

Enriching the human experience

Creating tools and evidence based strategies to improve the lives of people with disabilities and their families

Achieving a just and equitable society

Focused on reducing the impact of inequality, discrimination and disparities for people with disabilities and other intersecting identities

Optimizing Health

Creating interventions and collecting and analyzing data to promote health outcomes for people with disabilities.



Examples of Partnership Research

Predictors of
Enhanced Outcomes
for People with IDD
(US-NIDILRR)

Study of cultural
brokering for families
of children with
disabilities
(US-MCHB)

Leadership
Empowerment for
Abuse Prevention
Efficacy Study (US-DOJ)

Health and Mental
Health Outcomes of
People with IDD (OSU
US-NIDILRR)

Special Olympics
International Health
Outcomes
(US-CDC)

COVID Vaccine
Confidence Study for
People with IDD and
their Families (US-
ACL)

Collaborative Relationships at the Partnership

VCU Schools & Departments

Work across VCU - Arts, Business, Dentistry, Genetics, Nursing, Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Education, Medicine, Physical Therapy, Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work

People with Lived Experience

A Life Like Yours
Self-Advocacy Alliance,
Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Virginia Centers for Independent Living

Community Based Organizations & School Divisions

40 Community Service Boards, 500+ Private IDD providers, 132 school divisions, 40 early intervention systems and 100+ screening clinics and child care centers in Virginia

Advocacy Organizations

The Arc of Virginia, Autism Society chapters, and Down Syndrome Associations,

State Agencies

Health, Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Social Services, Medical Assistance Services, Education, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Blind/Visually Impaired

Virginia DD Network Partners

Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, disAbility Law Center of Virginia

Other State and National Partners

National Association of State Directors of Developmental disability Services,, Human Services Research Institute, Association of University Centers, other Universities, Family Voices, American Academy of Pediatrics, Association of Maternal & Child Health programs, Special Olympics International



Our vision for the future of the Partnership

- Serve as a hub for VCU IDD research
- In collaboration with multiple schools and investigators, secure multiple Center-based and other large federal grants (IDDRC, ARRT, DRRP, RRTC, PCORI)
- Create and promote practice & policy links for VCU IDD research in the state, nationally, and internationally

RIC Plans

- 1) A comprehensive UCEDD-wide research plan with identified goals, objectives, and activities for each Partnership content area to share with collaborators.
- 2) Increased awareness of the Partnership across VCU campuses through enhanced collaborative relationships across VCU schools.
- 3) *On top of our current output* increase interdisciplinary research funding proposals by 4 in 2021-25 and 6 in 25-26.
- 4) *On top of our current output* increase manuscript production by 6 a year.
- 5) A postdoctoral position is shared between SOE & the Center & increase training opportunities for students of across our core functions.

Threading the needle

- We are **seeking your advice and support** to better **connect with faculty** across VCU to bring together talent and to maximize competitiveness of VCU research proposals related to IDD.
- We have **very strong ties** to people with disabilities and families, community-based organizations, and state and federal agencies who have a demonstrated history of collaborating with us and supporting research to practice.

Thank you!

Any questions?

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