

2010 CONNECTIONS INSTITUTE NEW STAFF APPLICATION

Information for Staff Applicants... Keep this Page!

Thank you for your interest in serving on staff at the 2010 Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute! Attached is an application form for experienced staff members that must be filled out and returned to the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities by **May 21, 2010**.

What is the Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute?

The Harold M. Marsh, Sr. Connections Institute (formerly Metrotown) is the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities' signature youth leadership experience. Since 1993, this peer leadership program has prepared student delegates to make decisions based on an appreciation of the vast diversity within the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Connections experience begins with a five-day residential program during the summer that allows student delegates to break barriers, deal with biased behavior, and develop an action plan to reduce prejudice in their own school communities. In addition, the delegates gain insight into their own lives and values. They are able to forge a connection between what they understand cognitively and how they feel about their experiences with prejudice. In the words of one delegate, Connections is "wonderful and eye-opening – a true life lesson!" This lesson is brought about by carefully constructed interactive workshops, small group discussions, and experiential learning.

Who is the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities?

Connections is conducted by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, an organization that conducts programs promoting understanding and respect on ALL issues of diversity, for ALL age groups, ALL across Virginia. Each year, Inclusive Communities leads educational programs, conferences, retreats, and workshops for thousands of youth, educators, community members, non-profit organizations, and corporate and business leaders. These events and experiences teach participants not simply to notice differences, but also to respect variety in race, religion, and culture. We deliver our message in schools, houses of worship, the community, and in the workplace.

When and where will Connections 2010 take place?

The 2010 Connections Institute will take place from **Tuesday, August 10 – Saturday, August 14** at Camp Bethel, a camp and conference center located in Fincastle. Staff members must also attend training beginning on **Monday, August 9**.

What do staff members do at Connections?

Staff members play a variety of roles at Connections. They facilitate workshops and discussion groups, work one-on-one with participants, and serve as role models and mentors. College-age resource leaders lead discussion and cabin groups, providing direction throughout the week. Facilitators lead large group workshops and participate in all activities. Connections also has a Medical Professional and Mental Health Professional on staff.

What are the qualifications needed to be on staff at Connections?

Volunteer staff members come from a variety of backgrounds and professions, all with a shared interest in working with young people to promote inclusion and respect. Applicants must be at least 18 years old and be one year out of high school by August 2010. The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities requires that all staff members complete an application form, criminal background check, and child protective services check in advance of the Connections session.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 21, 2010

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities

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Position Applying For (please check all that apply):

- Resource Leader** (generally college-age, manage cabins, co-lead discussion groups)
 Facilitator (generally post-college-age, lead workshops, co-lead discussion groups)

Special Roles I Can Fill at Connections (please check all that apply):

- Guitar Player** **Medical Professional** (Doctor, Nurse, EMT) **Mental Health Professional**

Please list below any convictions for misdemeanor or felony offenses. Note that your participation as a Connections staff member will be reviewed based upon the information provided. Formal background checks will be conducted upon acceptance to the staff. **No convictions**

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete. I authorize the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities to investigate all statements in this application and to secure any necessary information from all employers, references, academic institutions and other organizations. I also agree to execute any additional written authorization necessary for Inclusive Communities to obtain access to and copies of records pertaining to this information. I agree to release any person, company, or other institution from any and all cause of action that otherwise might arise from supplying Inclusive Communities with information it may request pursuant to this release.

I understand that any volunteering with Inclusive Communities is contingent upon receipt of satisfactory responses to any or all investigations conducted by Inclusive Communities. I understand that any false answers, statements, or misrepresentations by omission made by me on this application or any related document will be sufficient for rejection of my application, or for my immediate discharge if discovered after I begin providing services.

I agree to comply with all policies, procedures, and rules applicable to employees of Inclusive Communities and I understand that any violation may result in my dismissal.

I further agree to do the following: (1) **Complete all staff paperwork (including background checks)**
(2) **Attend entire staff training from August 9-10, 2010**
(3) **Attend entire Connections session from August 10-14, 2010**

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the preceding statement:

Signature

Date

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(*Add more pages if necessary. Be sure to put your name on each page*)

Attach a resume where possible and appropriate

- (1) Please give the name, relationship, and daytime phone number of three references that you have known for at least three years who are not related to you.

- (2) Please fill in your educational background below. Complete for the highest level attained. If you did not receive a degree/diploma, indicate number of years completed.

<i>School & Location</i>	<i>Degree/Diploma/Course of Study</i>	<i>Date Earned</i>
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Organizations, Clubs, Memberships, and Honors: _____

- (3) Previous Metrotown/Connections Experience (role and year): _____

- (4) Referred to Connections by: _____ Relationship: _____

- (5) Why do you wish to be a part of the Connections experience? What do you expect to gain/share as a result of being a staff member?

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(6) What specific qualifications, strengths, or insights would you bring to the position for which you are applying? Particularly for those applicants who have not seen the Connections/Metrotown program firsthand, what training or experience will be of assistance in assuming your position on staff?

(7) After the Connections session, in what ways would you actively support the delegates becoming change agents in their schools, communities, houses of worship, and families?

(8) FOR CONNECTIONS/PROJECT INCLUSION GRADUATES ONLY: Often, it is challenging for staff members to be comfortable with being role models to their peers. Accepting this challenge can begin by accepting the idea that the purpose of going back to Connections/Project Inclusion is not to attempt to repeat the delegate experience but to facilitate the best possible experience for others. Please comment.

**IF YOUR APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED, YOU MAY BE INVITED
FOR AN INTERVIEW TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE 2010.**

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