

harold m. marsh, sr. 2010

connections institute

A high school diversity and leadership retreat
sponsored by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities



connections staff



The staff of the Connections Institute is as diverse as the delegates, representing many races, religions, and backgrounds. They come from across Virginia, united in a desire to promote understanding among all cultures. Composed of professional adult leaders with experience in human relations education, Connections staff members provide caring support and careful supervision to guide the delegates throughout the week. One aspect of Connections' success is the devotion of the staff, who view the program as much more than a week-long training. Unity and understanding are core values to which they devote their time and lives.

school action plans

With the assistance of Connections staff, student delegates develop action plans to implement in their school communities. Through the action plans, delegates apply their appreciation of diversity and actively involve other students from their schools to initiate positive change throughout the year. Sample action plans have included school-wide assemblies, teacher in-service trainings, the formation of clubs or dialogue groups, diversity awareness campaigns, and the creation of mentoring and mediation programs. All students are taken through a strategic planning process that allows them to design plans that meet the specific needs of their schools.

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"It is a process
designed to
motivate, and it
works."
—

- 2009 delegate

2010 dates, location, and fees

The 2010 Connections Institute will take place from **Tuesday, August 10 - Saturday, August 14** at Camp Bethel in Fincastle, VA. The site, situated on 470 acres at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, was chosen as a beautiful backdrop to the activities that occur at Connections.

Thanks to generous donors, and with particular appreciation to the R.E.B. Foundation, more than 30% of the costs for a school team to participate in the Connections Institute are subsidized. Participating schools pay only \$1,750 for a delegation of up to five students. That fee includes round trip bus transportation from central locations, meals, lodging, delegate insurance, and ongoing support to schools throughout the academic year. Each delegate receives a t-shirt, materials, and a follow-up networking package.

For more information about the Connections Institute, contact:

Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
5511 Staples Mill Road, Suite 202
Richmond, VA 23228

Phone: (804) 515-7950 • Fax: (804) 515-7177

Email: contact@inclusiveva.org • Web: www.inclusiveva.org

about inclusive communities •••••

The Connections Institute is conducted by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, which conducts programs that promote understanding and respect on ALL issues of diversity, for ALL age groups, ALL across Virginia. With a lengthy and rich history, Inclusive Communities traces its roots back to 1935, when it was founded as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

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.

**To register your school for the 2010 Connections Institute,
please mail the interest form below to:**
Inclusive Communities • 5511 Staples Mill Road, #202 • Richmond, VA 23228



••• connections 2010 school interest form •••

School: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Please check all that apply:

- I am interested in registering my school for Connections 2010. Please send a school registration packet to me at the address listed above.
- A \$250 deposit is in process and will be sent by April 16 to reserve my school's space. The \$1,500 balance will be sent by May 14. *[Placement is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. We must receive payment to hold your school's space.]*
- A check for \$_____ is enclosed, payable to Inclusive Communities. *[The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. A W-9 form and tax ID # are available upon request.]*

Entity Responsible for Payment: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____