

harold m. marsh, sr. 2017

connections institute

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



connections staff



Staff members at the Connections Institute are as diverse as the delegates, representing many races, religions, and backgrounds. They come from across Virginia, united in a desire to promote understanding. Composed of professional adult leaders and college students 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, giving their time and lives to the core values of unity and understanding.

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 inclusion and actively involve other students from their schools to initiate positive change throughout the year. Past 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 structured planning process that allows them to design strategies that meet the specific needs of their schools. *****NEW THIS YEAR***** *To support the implementation of your school team's action plan, VCIC is able to provide three follow-up workshops at your school during the 2017-2018 school year for an additional cost of \$375.*

—
*"I learned how
to take a
powerful idea
and make it a
concrete reality."*

- 2016 delegate
—

2017 dates, location, and fees

The 2017 Connections Institute will take place from **Monday, July 31 - Friday, August 4** at the W. E. Skelton 4-H Educational Conference Center in Wirtz, Virginia. Located on the shores of Smith Mountain Lake, the site 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 \$2,000 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, an organization that works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success by addressing prejudices, in all forms, in order to improve academic achievement, increase workplace productivity, and enhance local trust. Through workshops, retreats, and customized programs that raise knowledge, motivation, and skills, VCIC develops leaders who work together to achieve success throughout the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities has a lengthy and rich history, tracing its roots back to 1935 when it was founded as the Virginia Region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ).

**To register your school for the 2017 Connections Institute,
please mail the interest form below to:
VCIC • 5511 Staples Mill Road, Suite 202 • Richmond, VA 23228**



••• connections 2017 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 2017. 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 7 to reserve my school's space. The remaining \$1,750 balance will be sent by May 5. *[Placement is granted on a first-come, first-served basis. We must receive payment to hold your school's space.]*
- My school would like to receive three Connections follow-up workshops during the 2017-2018 school year to support action plans. An additional \$375 will be sent by May 5.
- 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: _____