



MADE POSSIBLE BY



FINAL REPORT 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

OVERVIEW

Diversity Dialogue Day is a one-day forum open to all high school students and educators in each of VCIC's chapter locations. The program is designed to guide students through a process of awareness to action and gives youth an opportunity to develop solutions to create a more inclusive environment at their school.

GOAL

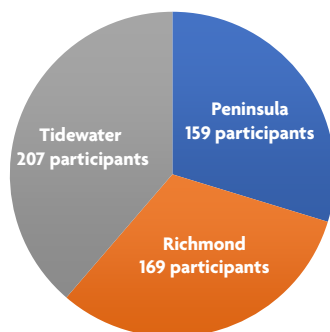
To increase high school youth's sensitivity to and awareness of diversity issues so that they can create school and community environments free from the distractions of prejudice, stereotypes, and bigotry.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase understanding of what prejudice is, decrease stereotypic attitudes, and develop an expanded awareness of discrimination and the harmful effects on individuals, groups, and communities.
- Be exposed to diverse perspectives.
- Create connections with peers from a similar geographic area.
- Develop an increased sense of personal empowerment and recognize the positive impact they, as individuals and as groups of students, can have on their own schools and communities.

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

In total, 535 students, volunteers, and educators came together across three regions to increase their capacity to combat prejudice in their schools.



WHERE

Dominion Energy sponsored three Diversity Dialogue Day forums during the 2023-2024 school year (Peninsula,



Richmond, and Tidewater). The Peninsula program took place at the Peninsula Campus of Old Dominion University (in conjunction with the Virginia Peninsula Community College) and was attended by schools representing Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg-James City County and York County. The Richmond program took place at the University of Richmond and was attended by public and private schools representing Amelia County, Chesterfield County, Fredericksburg, Goochland County, Henrico County, Powhatan County, and Richmond. The Tidewater program took place at Old Dominion University and was attended by schools representing Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The Diversity Dialogue Day program kicked off with an interactive large-group workshop. Students learned about the difference between dialogue and debate and identified skills and practices to support healthy dialogues. They then broke out in to intentionally diverse small-group discussions to reflect on ways and times that dialogue can contribute positively to school climate and culture. At the end of the day, students created personal commitments to share with their classmates from their sending school.



EVALUATION HIGHLIGHTS

In the Richmond region:

85% of students agree that they are more aware of how constructive dialogue shows up in their school.

In the Peninsula region:

93% of students agree that they are more aware of the differences between debate and dialogue.

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Educators participated in a VCIC professional development session while students were in their breakout groups.

By connecting with colleagues from schools across their region, educators broadened their perspectives on meaningful youth engagement and considered new approaches to fostering inclusion in their learning communities. Through interactive activities and small-group brainstorming, participants discovered strategies for fostering classroom and school practices that invite dialogue rather than debate.

“This was a great opportunity to hear and share experiences, thoughts, and comments from other educators.”

In the Tidewater region:

89% of students agree that they are more motivated to work with people who are different than them.



STUDENTS SAID:

- ▶ “It taught me a lot on how to have healthy conversations with people with different thinking.”
- ▶ “It’s something that every student needs.”
- ▶ “It was very nice interacting with students from different schools, and practice methods that we can use to make a more inclusive environment.”
- ▶ “It was educating and interesting to learn about how to fight against prejudice.”
- ▶ “It was a really fun time to interact with others and talk about topics to make our schools a better place.”
- ▶ “I learned how to have a courageous conversations. I made new friends and I improved my public speaking.”
- ▶ “My day was really good! I got to meet new people and learn about different aspects of constructive dialogue especially with real life scenarios, learned new skills and had fun in groups.”

THANK YOU TO DDD COALITION PARTNERS

The Hampton Roads
Committee of 200+ Men
Coming Together Virginia
Leadership Metro Richmond
The Literacy Lab

Old Dominion University
Tidewater Community College
YMCA of Greater Richmond
YMCA of the Virginia Peninsulas

THANK YOU TO DDD VOLUNTEERS

Joy Barclay	Aparna Harger	Kayla Noel
Lawrence Barclay	Danielle Harris*	Justicia Nyantakyi
Jordan Barnes	Julexus Hyman	Vivian Oden
Terrian Brown	Kelly Jackson	Dayman Parrish
Charles Bruce, Jr.	Shanda Jenkins	Latascha Purdie*
Danita Byrd	Lily Jia*	Myles Quachyeagain
Jacob Carasella*	Kendall Johnson	Tabitha Ragsdale
Ellen Chever	Whitney Kressel*	Tiffany Sugrim
Jara Clark	Millicent Lee	Rita Utz
Brett Cook-Snell	Brittney Lutz	Kyarra Vazquez
Stephen Dowell	Shenna Lyle	Barbara Peterson-
Kenneth Elazier	Angela Menichino	Wilson
Heather Fuss	Jo Murphy	Breann Williams

* Dominion Energy Employee

