

# Making An Impact: The VCU School of Education Annual Fund

Many of the VCU School of Education's key initiatives and programs are driven by the generosity of annual contributions.

By supporting the SOE Annual Fund, donors enhance the day-to-day life of students and faculty, and make an impact both on the long-term goals and mission of the School.

Here are some highlights of the impact that annual contributions made during this past academic year:

**Student support:** Annual Fund support allowed 16 School of Education students enrolled in the Teacher Education Home and School Collaboration class to take a bus tour through the Richmond communities in which they would be student-teaching. This allowed for teachers to get to know the students and families as well as the communities in which they live. This past year, the tour was led by a resident of Gilpin Court, and included visits to Gilpin Court, the Black History Museum, the Maggie Walker House, Moseby Court, and Fairfield Court.

**Faculty recruitment:** Thanks in part to the generosity of annual fund contributions, the VCU School of Education hosted the Association for Assessment and Research in Counseling (AARC) annual conference in Richmond for the first time. The conference attracts professionals and students in the areas of counseling, research, and educational psychology, and VCU SOE Dean, Dr. Andrew Daire, was the keynote speaker. Hosting AARC in Richmond was an opportunity for recruitment of and professional development for VCU faculty and students, and provided important visibility for VCU to leaders in the education field.



**The RTR Program:** Annual fund support helps to drive the RTR Program. RTR is a partnership between VCU and local school districts. This competitive graduate teacher residency program recruits, trains, and prepares teachers to meet the distinct challenges of urban school systems. 100% of RTR graduates are hired by local schools at the end of their residency. Since 2011, RTR has prepared more than 141 teachers, and impacted over 11,800 students.



**Faculty development:** The VCU School of Education Annual Fund also makes it possible for our faculty to present their important research. Earlier this year, Dr. Kurt Stenhagen, associate professor in the Foundations of Education department, presented his research with a team of graduate students at the American Educational Resource Association national conference about the challenges that teachers, administrators and systems face in teaching Latino-English learners. Dr. Maike Philipsen, chair and professor in the Foundations of Education department, presented at the American Psychological Association annual conference in San Francisco about designing supports that help more first generation students enroll and eventually complete college.

**Teacher appreciation:** The VCU School of Education hosted a Teacher Appreciation event held at Moseley Architects, which celebrated the generous work of cooperating educators who supervised and evaluated SOE students for in-school required student teaching, internship, and practicum experience during the 2017-2018 school year. More than 50 teachers, counselors and administrators participated.

**Students, faculty, and community outreach:**

The Annual Fund support directly impacts the experience of the SOE's students and faculty by providing:

- Development and engagement opportunities for students, such as the new mentoring program in the school's Teaching and Learning department, as well as a new student engagement series to empower SOE students to talk about the significant issues that face Richmond's schools.
- Professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, like lunch and learn events about important issues, such as effective online instruction to help make lessons more widely available and accessible to diverse groups of learners.
- The creation of a new SOE initiative comprised of education and city stakeholders that allows for VCU students to serve as mentors to strengthen child and family stability in the Richmond area. This initiative will help improve VCU SOE reach into the local community, positively impact underserved student populations, and affect positive change through strategic collaborative relationships.

