

# Jessica R. Fort, M.A., Ph.D. Student

Virginia Commonwealth University, 1015 W Main Street, Richmond, VA 23220

Email: FortJ@vcu.edu | Phone: (860) 287-1606

## EDUCATION

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- Expected 2025 **Ph.D.**, Counselor Education and Supervision  
Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- May 2018 **M.A.**, Educational Psychology, Counselor Education  
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- May 2016 **B.A.**, Psychology, Mental Health Concentration  
Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT

## LICENSURE & CERTIFICATION

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- Current Connecticut School Counseling Certification (068)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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- 2018 - 2022 **Professional School Counselor**, Windsor High School, Windsor, CT
- 2022 **School Counseling Practicum Student**, Open High School, Richmond, VA
- 2017-2018 **School Counselor (Intern)**, Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, New London, CT
- 2016 **School Counseling Practicum Student**, Synergy Alternative High School, Hartford, CT

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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- 2023 - Current **Graduate Assistant** for Dr. Wheeler at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA  
Support the VCU Family and Community Empowerment Center initiatives and various research related projects.
- 2023 - Current **Graduate Assistant** for Dr. Rodgers at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

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- Assisted with Special Education & Early Childhood program and curriculum redesign and development
- 2022 - 2023     **Graduate Assistant** for Dr. Spence at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- Supported various research projects pertaining to infants exposed to substances and early childhood education.
- 2022 - 2023     **Graduate Assistant** for the Department of Alumni Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
- Assisted with research and support of alumni-student mentoring initiatives.
- 2017             **Graduate Assistant** for Dr. Hines at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
- Coordinator of the Near-Peer Mentoring program in collaboration with UCONN STEM departments and Manchester, CT K-5 Public Schools.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Higher Education

- Fall 2023         **Co-Instructor**, CLED 602: Techniques of Counseling (Graduate level; In-person). Virginia Commonwealth University. 3 credit hours (Fall 2023)
- Spring 2023     **Guest Lecturer**, CLED 200 - The Science of Resilience and Holistic Health (Graduate level; In-person). Virginia Commonwealth University.
- Spring 2023     **Guest Lecturer**, CLED 603 - Group Procedures in Counseling (Graduate level; In-person). Virginia Commonwealth University.
- FA' 17, Spr' 18     **Teacher Assistant**, UNIV 1820/2230 - PA<sup>2</sup>SS Peer Mentor Program (Undergraduate level; In-person). University of Connecticut. 1 credit hour

## PUBLICATIONS

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Refereed:

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- Non-** Rooks-Ellis, D. L., **Fort, J.**, Brown, K., Spence, C., & Acar, S. (2023). Visioning Collaborative Solutions and Strategies to Support Infants with Substance Exposure and their Families. *Child Welfare, 101*(3), 1-24.
- Wathen, B.-J., Cunningham, P.D., Singleton, P., Mittman, D.C., Angeles, S.L., **Fort, J.**, Freeman, R.S.F. and Hines, E.M. (2023), "Creating Positive Academic Outcomes for Black Males: A School Counselor's Role as Advocate and Change Agent in Elementary, Middle, and High School", Hines, E.M. and Fletcher, E.C. (Ed.) *Black Males in Secondary and Postsecondary Education (Advances in Race and Ethnicity in Education, Vol. 9)*, Emerald Publishing Limited, Leeds, pp. 141-161. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S2051-231720230000009008>

## refereed:

Evans, I., **Fort, J.**, Parthemos, C., & Spence, C. M. (2023, August). *Concerns of Pregnant and Parenting Individuals During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A report for Nurture RVA.*

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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**Fort, J.** (2024, February 15). To Equity and Beyond: School Counselors and the Overrepresentation of Black Males in Special Education. [Poster]. Holmes Scholar Preconference at American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Spence, C. M., Acar, S., Blasco, P., Childress, D., Floyd, K., Rooks-Ellis, D., & **Fort, J.** (2022, September 28). Multistate Study of EI (Early Interventionist) Response to Needs of Substance Exposed Infants. [Poster]. Division of Early Childhood's 38th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families, Chicago, IL. *Non-attending author.*

## MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE

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- Member**, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.
- Member**, American Counseling Association (ACA)
- Member**, American School Counseling Association (ASCA)
- Member**, Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)
- Member**, Virginia Commonwealth University Holmes Scholar

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**Member**, Virginia School Counselor Association (VSCA)

**Secretary**, Chi Sigma Iota (CSI) Honor Society, Omega Lambda Iota Chapter

References available upon request.