A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

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About VCU

• Premier urban, public research university
• Located in Richmond, VA
• Established in 1838
• 31,288 students
• #1 public graduate arts program in the country
• #1 hospital in Virginia
• $270 million in sponsored research
Division of Community Engagement
Downtown Richmond, VA
VCU Campuses

Monroe Park Campus

MCV Campus
Surrounding Neighborhoods

Newtowne West
Carver
The Fan
Randolph
Oregon Hill
Jackson Ward
VCU Police Extended Jurisdiction

[Map showing the extended jurisdiction areas: Newtowne West, Carver, The Fan, Jackson Ward, Randolph, and Oregon Hill]
Carver-VCU Partnership

• Formed in 1996
• Structure
• Goals
  – Community development
  – Youth development
  – Health and wellness programs
Community Development

• Master Plan
• Sheep Hill Memories, Carver Dreams
• Community Programs Space
• Leadership Training (CACIL)
Youth Development

• After-school program
• VCU AmeriCorps and America Reads
• G.W. Carver Elementary School
  – Carver Promise mentoring program
  – Service learning students
  – Carver Health Project
Health & Safety

- Fitness facility access
- Annual health fairs
- Police jurisdiction expansion
Neighborhood Outreach Director

• Primary liaison between VCU and its neighbors
• Attends neighborhood association meetings
• Leverages VCU resources
  – Work study
  – Service hours (employee and student)
  – Graduate internships
• Develops collaborative initiatives
Neighborhood Outreach Director

- Facilitates inclusion in major capital decisions
Collaborative Initiatives

• Neighborhood Liaisons
• Paint the Town Green
• Project Clean & Green Move
• Neighborhood Team
Collaborative Initiatives

• Paint the Town Green
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• Project Clean & Green Move
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Collaborative Initiatives

• Neighborhood Team
  – Several VCU units
  – Meet quarterly
  – Neighborhood liaisons attend once per semester
  – Discuss issues of common concern
  – Monroe Park Campus Neighborhood Forum
Collaborative Initiatives

• Neighborhood Team
  – Role of VCU Police
    • External relations officer Greg Felton
Collaborative Initiatives

• VCU Police
  – Noise suppression van
  – PrtySmrt
  – LiveSafe
Future Goals

• More faculty / staff involvement
  – Community service leave
  – G.W. Carver Elementary School
• Neighborhood leadership program
• Neighborhood assessments and planning
  – Include evaluation of VCU as a neighbor
Contact Information

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