A Neighborhood Team Approach to Strengthening University-Neighborhood Relations

Tito A. Luna
April 14, 2016
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

- Provost
  - Vice Provost for Community Engagement
    - Council for Community Engagement
    - Teaching & Learning
      - ASPIRE
      - Service-Learning
    - Outreach
      - AmeriCorps/America Reads
      - Mary and Frances Youth Center
      - Neighborhood Outreach
    - Research
      - Community-Engaged Research
Downtown Richmond, VA
VCU Campuses

Monroe Park Campus

MCV Campus
Surrounding Neighborhoods

- Oregon Hill
- The Fan
- Randolph
- Newtowne West
- Carver
- Jackson Ward
- Oregon Hill
VCU Police Extended Jurisdiction
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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• Project Clean & Green Move

Use Our Dumpsters!

Four dumpsters are available for
residential use near VCU from
April 25—May 26 and again from
July 26—September 3.

Click on the map for locations!

Neighborhood Cleanups

8 AM—12 PM on these Saturdays:
May 31
June 28
August 2
August 23

How to help

• Volunteer to help load trash and sort re-usable items in all five neighborhoods. We also need
  cleanup leaders! Email: neighbors@vcu.edu.

• Separate your trash and reusable items and leave them out before 8 AM on these Saturdays.

Donation Resources

For large items that are not suitable for donation, call 313
and request a RASH PICKUP.

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If moving out before these days, you can still help RVA’s nonprofits by donating your lightly used items—and get a tax deduction too! Call or visit their websites for more information.

*Ask at your bank for lead

VCU
Collaborative Initiatives

• Project Clean & Green Move
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

Tito Luna
Neighborhood Outreach Director
Virginia Commonwealth University
Division of Community Engagement
(804)-827-1904
community.vcu.edu
taluna@vcu.edu