About VCU RRTC

• Established in 1983.
• Provides resources for professionals, individuals with disabilities, and their representatives.
• Our team of nationally and internationally renowned researchers is committed to developing and advancing evidence-based practices to increase the hiring and retention for individuals with disabilities.
Our time. Right now.

VCU Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU RRTC Major Areas of Focus

- Autism
- Supported Employment
- Transition from School to Work
- Post Secondary Education
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Social Security Policy
VCU RRTC Fast Facts

- Current staff: 85
- Funds awarded from 1999-2012: $66 Million
- 150 + Peer reviewed Journal Articles
- 16 Commercially published books
Center for Rehabilitation Science and Engineering

- Brings together researchers, clinicians, rehabilitation specialists, and academicians from the VCU Schools of Medicine, Allied Health, Education and Engineering, as well as the Hunter Holmes Veterans Administration Medical Center and the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services

- Promotes research, education, physical medicine and rehabilitation services, and clinical care for America's veterans, children and adults with disabilities.

- Offers resources and initiatives aimed at improving the health, functional ability and quality of life of persons who experience a disability.
Funded primarily by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) with some support from the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS).

Our mission is to build state-wide capacity to improve outcomes of individuals with ASD by improving the knowledge, skills, and understanding of families, educators, and professionals who support someone with a spectrum disorder.

Website:  http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/index.cfm
Who we are

The VCU Autism Center for Excellence (ACE) is funded by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Our mission is to build state-wide capacity to improve outcomes of individuals with ASD by improving the knowledge, skills and understanding of families, educators, and professionals who support someone with a spectrum disorder.

What’s going on

Across Virginia

1. Newport News School Division - Planning for a Busy Fall Season
2. New VA-ABA Consortium Announced
3. Virginia Agrees to Add Waiver Slots and Close Training Centers as Result of Justice Department Investigation and Report
4. Training for Paraprofessionals Now Required in Virginia Schools
5. Exciting News to Share from the June 5th Bon Secours St. Mary’s Project SEARCH Celebration
6. Greenville County Schools Establish Regular “Autism Team” Meetings
8. News from the Blue Ridge Autism and Achievement Center (BRAC) in Roanoke

Upcoming Training Activities

- VDOE and the VCU RRTC will sponsor Evidence-Based Peer Support Strategies: Promoting Inclusion, Learning, and Relationships for Students with Significant Disabilities, Sept 19, Roanoke
- TTAC at JMU presents “A Closer Look at Asperger’s” - September 20 & 21, Harrisonburg
- Applied Behavior Analysis at George Mason University Presents
- Building Bridges II - Developmental Disabilities in Racially, Culturally, and Linguistically Diverse Communities, September 28, 2012, Henrico, VA
- Behavior Symposium Practical Solutions for Supporting Positive Behaviors, hosted by VDOE TTAC @ VCU, October 5, 2012 in Richmond
- Insight 2012 - Topics in Autism with Brenda Smith Meyer, Ph.D., October 19 and 20, 2012, Richmond
- Click Here for Links to Other Statewide Training and Events Calendar
VDOE Strategy

• Develop a PREMIER technical assistance, professional development and educational research center for ASD in the Commonwealth of Virginia
Our mission is to build state-wide capacity to improve outcomes of individuals with ASD by improving the knowledge, skills and understanding of families, educators, and professionals who support someone with a spectrum disorder.
ACE Technical Assistance
Top Down and Bottom Up

- Improve Classroom and School Practice
- Increase Administrative Support, Systems Change
<table>
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<tr>
<th>School Divisions</th>
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<th># of Students Identified with ASD</th>
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University / College Coursework for Credit

Coursework in Applied Behavior Analysis

Coursework in Autism Spectrum Disorders
Not-for-Credit

- Live Training
- Resources
- Webcasts
- Online Seminars
- Online Instructional Courses
Paraprofessionals in Autism Resource and Advancement Project (PARApro)

- Enhance the knowledge of paraprofessionals related to the characteristics and learning needs of students with autism spectrum disorder
- Build skills related to implementing teacher directed instruction and behavioral support strategies
- Assist local educational agencies in providing teachers and administrators with guidance on the supervisory relationship with paraprofessionals
Business Connections with Virginia DARS

- Working with Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services.
- CARF accredited supported employment service provider since 1983.
- Successfully assisted hundreds working closely with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.
- Provides high quality services not only to people with disabilities but also to the community corporate partners.
- Business Connections currently operates three model Project SEARCH sites in the greater Richmond area.

Website:  http://www.worksupport.com/bizconnect/Homepage.html
Project SEARCH: Research of Demonstration

• Model Research And Development For Youth With Autism And Developmental Disabilities
• Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital
• Bon Secours St. Frances Hospital
• Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia
• Collaboration with business, education, rehabilitation (VR) & DD
• Braided funding
• Immersion & impact
• Training in real work settings
• Low risk, low cost for business
• Hiring students who are “good fit”
• Goal of employment
Project SEARCH

- Internship program for students with significant disabilities immersed in a local business.
- Students with disabilities rotate through 3-ten week internships at the local business over a school calendar year.
- It is a collaboration between education, rehabilitation, and the local business.
Transitions Innovations

- Post High Models
- Customized Employment
- Project SEARCH Replications
- Social Skills Training

- Funded by the Virginia Department of Education
Indicators 13 and 14: With Virginia Department of Education

- The RRTC is responsible for the data collection of Indicator 13 (Review of IEPs) and Indicator 14 (Student Follow-up Surveys).
- The role of the RRTC is the design and implementation of two databases that are accessed by school divisions across the state to input their data.
- Summaries are developed for use by local school divisions and the VDOE for federal reporting purposes.
Customized Employment

• Is a process to assist students with significant disabilities to explore their interests and skills in order to develop customized employment opportunities in the community.

• Currently working with York and Loudoun to incorporate this type of employment as one of the transition services they offer.
VCU ACE IT in College

- A five year demonstration grant through the US Department of Education.
- Provides college education for students with intellectual disabilities ages 18-26.
- A 21 credit, 30 month certificate program through the School of Education.
- “Program of one” with inclusive core courses, electives and work experience.
- Funded by the US Department of Education.
VCU ACE-IT in College

• VCU is one of 27 projects funded nationally to design, implement and evaluate an inclusive postsecondary education model for students with significant disabilities.

• VCU’s ACE-IT in College is an on campus, college experience for students with intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury, or autism who are 18-26 years of age.

• This unique program is a collaborative effort between the RRTC and the Partnership for People with Disabilities to expand the diversity of students on campus by working with individuals not typically provided postsecondary opportunities.
Work Incentive Planning and Assistance
National Training Center (WIPA-NTC)

- Work Incentive Counseling is a nationwide program begun by the Social Security Administration to assist SSA beneficiaries to obtain employment and reduce their dependence on federal benefits.
- Work Incentive Counselors enable beneficiaries to navigate the complex rules and work incentives that allow them to work while maintaining their critical health care coverage.
- Funded by Social Security Administration.

Web site: [http://www.vcu-ntc.org](http://www.vcu-ntc.org)
Work Incentive Counseling Services in Virginia

- Work incentive counseling services are available in the Commonwealth through funding provided by SSA and DARS.
- Additionally, multiple state agencies are currently collaborating to provide funding for work incentives counseling services through December 2012.
- In spite of these efforts, current work incentive counseling capacity in the state does not meet the demand for the service.
VCU’s Role

- VCU is the sole provider of SSA approved training, certification, and technical assistance for work incentive counselors in the country.

- Over the past five years, VCU has certified more than 1,000 work incentive counselors across the country, including 41 in Virginia.
The Effectiveness of Work Incentive Counseling

SSA beneficiaries who receive work incentive counseling are:

1. Significantly more likely to **return to work and increase their earnings**, and

2. Significantly more likely to **reduce their dependence on federal cash benefits**
The Center on Transition to Employment for Youth with Disabilities (TransCen & VCU)

- Funded by U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
- Designed to conduct research and spotlight the strategies and circumstances that produce optimal employment and career achievement for youth with disabilities.
- The Center is conducting six studies on transition to employment topics, focusing on three groups of youth who have the lowest employment outcomes:
  - youth with intellectual and other developmental disabilities,
  - youth with emotional or mental health disabilities, and
  - minority youth with disabilities.

Website: http://www.transitiontoemployment.org/
The Center of Knowledge Translation for Employment Research Center (SEDL & VCU)

- Funded by U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
- Has been carrying out a variety of research activities related to the employment of people with disabilities.
- KTER staff have been conducting interviews, focus groups, and surveys with selected vocational agencies, people with disabilities, business people, researchers, and policy makers to learn about their use of evidence-based practices and the strategies that work best for them to get research into use.

Website: [http://www.kter.org/](http://www.kter.org/)
The strategic plan of the Brain Injury Program: Based on the Key Drivers of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service of the Veterans Hospital Administration.

Richmond VAMC Brain Injury Program: One of seven VHA or military sites that participate in the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC).

This partnership between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs provides an integrated system that ensures that all military personnel and veterans with brain injury receive specialized evaluation, treatment and follow-up care.

As Lead Center for brain injury rehabilitation within the VHA, our Program serves as a referral center and cooperates with multiple other acute, sub-acute, and post acute facilities to ensure that persons eligible for care receive necessary services at the appropriate stage of their recovery.
Virginia Commonwealth University

Rehabilitation Research and Training Center

www.worksupport.com