

# OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY, EFFECTIVENESS AND SUCCESS

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The Office of Institutional Equity, Effectiveness and Success embeds diversity, equity and inclusion as a core component of VCU's academic and practical foundations. IES provides policy and civil rights compliance tools to support equity across the university, facilitates inclusive training and education, mobilizes university-community partnerships for real-world experiences and disseminates impactful practices for our communities.

## Programs

### Service-learning

Service-learning integrates community service with traditional academic courses in order to enhance academic learning, facilitate the development of students into responsible citizens and meet community-identified needs. Each student in a service-learning class participates in organized service activities that directly relate to the subject matter of the course and meet community-identified needs. The service needs are defined by community organizations in partnership with service-learning faculty. All service-learning students participate in reflection activities, which increase their understanding and application of course content, enhance their sense of civic responsibility, and encourage them to learn and grow from their experience. A listing of service-learning courses is provided in the Schedule of Classes each semester. For more information, email [servelearn@vcu.edu](mailto:servelearn@vcu.edu) or visit the Service-Learning website (<https://servicelearning.vcu.edu/>).

### VCU America Reads

The America Reads initiative began as a challenge put forth by former President Bill Clinton to “ensure that every child can read independently by third grade.” Citizens from across the nation and all walks of life have answered the call to improve the literacy skills of struggling readers. VCU has responded to the challenge by setting aside college work-study funds for eligible students who want to make a difference in the life of a child.

The VCU America Reads program places college work-study students in local elementary schools to provide comprehensive reading support to students who are below grade level in reading.

Interested students can apply through the VCU work-study jobs portal on the Financial Aid website (<https://finaid.vcu.edu/types/workstudy/>).