



Richmond Public Schools

VUU Scholars Cohort

Impact Statement

Virginia Union University (VUU) is proud to announce its “VUU is RVA” partnership with the City of Richmond and Richmond Public Schools (RPS). The partnership will help solidify greater access to academic, economic, medical, cultural and civic support to those who live in the Greater Richmond area.

Next Steps

- Design a signature/emblem for program - Provide rich and innovative scholastic opportunity for RPS youth.
- Establish current strategies to increase college readiness for our youth and families, and begin to implement these strategies in the fall of 2019.
- Provide a mentor for each youth selected for the program to support, coach, and assist with post-secondary readiness and success (perhaps an incoming Freshman at VUU to be matched with an incoming Freshman at RPS High Schools to align with the students' timelines).
- Design and create robust programs for full collaboration between VUU and RPS.
- Ensure that facilitators and youth will have access to VUU labs, classrooms, and advising from professors for educational and professional development.
- Identify VUU alumni in the RPS system or broader Richmond community to serve as additional mentors/advisors to our scholars.
- Design a summer exploration/innovation academy for youth to experience a week long college readiness program.
- Develop a process to collect outcome data to track program success.
- Develop strategies around paying it forward.
- Design and implement a sustainability and scalability plan.

Selection Criteria

1. Education elements.
 - a. Extracurricular involvement.
 - b. Community involvement and leadership.
 - c. Grade Point Average.
2. Prioritize first generation scholars.
3. Represent all RPS jurisdictions (northside, east end, south side, west end).
4. Career aspirations and/or dreams.
5. Passion pathway.
6. Scholar statement and interview.
7. Recommendations.

Timeline

February

- Develop a selection committee (RPS, VUU Rep, School Counseling, C&I others).
- Outline program expectations for both RPS and VUU.
- Establish program selection criteria.
- Develop a detailed timeline and application process.
- Advertise the opportunity through every available channel.

March

- Open applications.

April

- Review applications and announce the cohort for FY19-20.

June

- Host Parent and Scholar Orientation.

