Dear Students of the School of the Arts,

My name is Holly Price Alford, and I am the Director of Diversity for the School of the Arts. I am also an associate professor in the Department of Fashion Design + Merchandising. The Dean of the School of the Arts chose me because of my work in the area of Diversity. I was appointed to the position in August, 2012 to ensure that the School of the Arts meets the University’s Five Year Diversity goals, as well as the goals and objectives of the School of the Arts Five year Diversity Plan. I strongly believe that diversity of cultures, views and experiences are crucial to a student’s academic experience, and that the School of the Arts fosters an environment of inclusion and support.

As Director of Diversity and Inclusion I am responsible for helping students, finding ways to celebrate our diversity and assisting should any concerns develop. I work directly with the Dean and serve as a liaison to the Vice President of Diversity and Equity. I look forward to working with students in the School of the Arts. If you have not read the summary of the School of the Arts Diversity plan you can find it on the following web page: arts.vcu.edu/diversity

Thank you,

Holly Price Alford
Director of Diversity and Inclusion, VCUarts Associate Professor, Department of Fashion Design + Merchandising
hpalford@vcu.edu
Monroe Park Campus, Pollak Building, Rm 528
325 North Harrison St.

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS

Interdisciplinary grants are offered to diverse groups of students from various cultural backgrounds and academic disciplines. Some examples include:

**Leigh Street Armory – Uncovery and Revitalization**
Richmond’s Leigh Street Armory is one of only three such armories ever built in the U.S. for African Americans. The students provided scholarly documentation outlining the historical importance of this building and the African American militias and document the style of armories and their important place in the architectural record.

Students from Art History, Communication Arts, History, Interior Design, and Painting & Printmaking received this **$5,000 Award**. Faculty mentors: Dr. Charles Brownell (Art History) and Roberto Ventura (Interior Design) as well as five faculty and community consultants.

**Sew Educated: Keeping African Girls in School**
This project focuses on the hygienic health risks of young Sudanese females entering puberty. The girls of Sudan describe this experience as frightening and research shows the acceleration of school drop-out rates.

Students from Fashion Design, Homeland Security, Information Systems, and Nursing received this **$3,000 Award**. Faculty mentor: Linda Lee (Fashion Design + Merchandising).
As artists, designers, performers and scholars, we stand upon many shoulders in our search for the “new.” Diverse backgrounds, lifestyles, language, philosophies and opportunities help us to find the most exciting new questions – which is a cornerstone of the VCUarts experience. Communication, creative expression, and our search for answers provide our minds and souls with new and exciting recipes, allow us to share the aggregate of human experience in this converging world, and draw on the rich diversity of our collective human spirit.

Joseph H. Seipel
Dean, VCUarts

VCU SCHOOL OF THE ARTS POLICY STATEMENT

The VCU School of the Arts believes that art is inclusive. Therefore, this diversity policy establishes that the School of the Arts accepts and welcomes all people by maintaining and celebrating diversity within our student body, faculty and staff. The School of the Arts provides equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination according to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, and sexual orientation in accord with University Policy. To support this policy and to stimulate understanding, the School of the Arts will establish forums to explore diversity in education, arts and design. We believe that to achieve educational excellence, we must value and practice inclusion.

DIVERSITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Diversity creates relationships in which individuals of differing perspectives; life experiences and cultural backgrounds are welcomed, valued and supported. This means diversity is inclusive of all groups.

Affirmative Action is initiated by the federal government to ensure equal opportunity to underrepresented individuals who have historically been denied.

Diversity does not replace Affirmative Action. They work together. Affirmative Action opens the door. Diversity works to change the culture within the organization.

DIVERSE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Visit www.diversity.vcu.edu and click Campus Resources then Cultural Organizations.

OFFICES THAT FOSTER DIVERSITY

The Office of Inclusive Excellence
VCU Safe Zone
VCU Disability Services
Office of Multi Cultural Student Affairs
University Counseling Center

OFF CAMPUS RESOURCES

Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)
www.rosmy.org
888.644.4390
2311 Westwood Ave, Richmond, VA 23230
youthprograms@rosmy.org

GayRVA is Richmond’s go-to source for news, entertainment, and information about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered (LGBT) community.
www.gayrva.com

Hope in the Cities builds trust through honest conversations on race, reconciliation and responsibility. Its goal is the creation of just and inclusive communities. www.hopeinthecities.org

VA Center for Inclusive Communities
www.inclusiveva.com

Cultural Centers Include:
Beth Ahabah Museum & Archives
Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia
Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site
Virginia Holocaust Museum
Richmond Slave Trail
Sixth Mt. Zion Baptist Church
Maymont House
American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar
Virginia Randolph Home Economics Cottage
Virginia Civil Rights Memorial
Valentine Richmond History Center
Virginia Historical Society
Virginia War Memorial
Islamic Society of Greater Richmond
Islamic Center of Richmond
Richmond Gay Community Foundation
Central Virginia Rainbow Partnership
Weinstein Jewish Community Center
Hindu Center of Virginia
VCU Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA)