Equity Statement:

Systemic racism has created and contributed to inequitable educational opportunities and outcomes within our school systems and in higher education. As such, the School of Education (SOE) strives to improve equitable educational opportunities and outcomes for students, teaching practices in PK-12 and higher education, and educational policy. We advocate dismantling policies, practices, and structures that exclude individuals from historically marginalized backgrounds.

We seek to advance equitable educational opportunities and outcomes by producing research and interventions that transform diverse schools and communities. We do this work through collaborations with regional, state and local policy makers, educators, families, students, and community members who share our goal of ensuring equitable educational opportunities and outcomes for students from any background.

As Faculty and Staff of the VCU School of Education:

We prepare our students to teach, lead, and shape a public education system that empowers all within it to contribute to a diverse, just, and inclusive democracy, free of discrimination, oppression, and marginalization based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, socio-economic class status, religion, ability, and other cultural and intersecting identities.

We provide critical reflection on our nation’s history and an honest assessment of the role of race and racism in contemporary policies and practices that perpetuate inequities for students.

We apply a wide range of theoretical perspectives that acknowledge diversity as a driver of excellence as well as appreciate the unique backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of each of our faculty, staff, and students.

We support teachers, leaders, professional staff, and other stakeholders in their work to dismantle policies and practices that disproportionately harm historically marginalized students and communities.

We are committed to working within our programs, and in partnership with schools and communities, to protect academic freedom and to share knowledge and practices that help PK-12 and higher education realize the promise of public education for each student in the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

October 7, 2021