

# THE GRACE E. HARRIS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



# VCU

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The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute was established in May 1999 by the Board of Visitors at Virginia Commonwealth University in honor of Grace E. Harris, Ph.D., upon her retirement from the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs. Harris has served the university for more than 40 years in the roles of faculty member, dean, vice provost, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and acting president, becoming the highest-ranking woman and highest-ranking African-American in VCU's history. Today, she remains a distinguished professor at VCU.

Harris holds a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from Hampton Institute (now Hampton University), a master's degree in social work from Richmond Professional Institute of the College of William and Mary (now VCU) and a Master of Arts degree and doctorate in sociology from the University of Virginia. Consistent with her lifelong service to the broader community, Harris continues to serve on a number of boards and task forces at the local, state and national levels.

The hallmark of Harris' leadership over her years of service is her collaborative and inclusive style. Known for her commitment to excellence and ability to effect positive change in systems, Harris is a mentor and role model to many.



## MISSION

The Grace E. Harris Leadership Institute promotes the development of current and emerging leaders in academic institutions, other public, private and nonprofit organizations, and communities. Consistent with the mission of VCU, the Institute is committed to identifying and nurturing the next generation of leaders through leadership training and public policy research.