

The recent news that the Department of Education has reversed its decision to grant the Federal Executive Institute (FEI) to the Charlottesville City Schools is devastating. It is not a coincidence that UVA decided to cancel all DEI programming in accordance with the Trump administration's orders and was then granted this property.

The FEI property would have housed our pre-k program and allowed the city to expand and centralize alternative education. It is hard to describe the anger and betrayal we feel having this property ripped away from the city. The educators in the city are here for the families who need these programs because public schools promise to educate ALL students, regardless of background, race, nationality, or income.

For far too long UVA has relied on the grossly underpaid labor of our public school teachers to train and mentor their student teachers, without investing in the very system they have taken for granted. It is time they feel the consequence of those actions. UVA continues to take from our community and our response is we will no longer work with them.

We ask that UVA rescind their application for the FEI property and until they do so we are calling on all educators in Charlottesville City Schools to boycott hosting UVA practicum and student teachers for the next school year.

We refuse to stand with an institution that bows to this administration and harms its neighbors. Email Dean Rowley, dean of the School of Education, at saj8w@virginia.edu and let her know you will no longer host student teachers and practicum students as a result of UVA's actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Gillikin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Shannon Gillikin
Charlottesville Education Association, President