



JOHN PERKINS CENTER

Perkins Center PRIZE

HONORING DR. JOHN M. PERKINS

Who is John Perkins?

The Perkins Center has grounded itself within Dr. Perkins 3 R's, which presents a particular approach to community engagement. **Dr. John M. Perkins**, an American Christian minister, civil rights leader, and author, developed an intentional practice of community engagement that began as the 3 R's and grew into a set of 8 Christian Community Development principles. Born in 1930 in Jackson, Mississippi, his story emerged out of economic and racial injustice in our country that impassioned his work towards cultivating reconciliation within our communities; working across economic, racial, and socio-cultural barriers. He is the founder and President Emeritus of the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation with his wife, Vera Mae Perkins; and co-founder of the Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). In 2004, Seattle Pacific embarked into a university partnership with the Perkins Foundation, resulting in the John Perkins Center who serves at the place of intersection and connection between campus and the Seattle regional community.

For more information check out [John Perkins](#). For more information on all 8 CCD principles, check out the [CCDA](#).

The 3 R's

Relocation: Living Among the People

Living out the gospel through relocation means desiring for one's neighbor and neighbor's family that which one desires for one's self and family. It means bettering the quality of other people's lives spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally as you would do for your own, even sharing in the suffering and pain of others. By relocating into a community and becoming a neighbor, solutions begin to transform from a "you, them, theirs" perspective and understanding, into a "we, us, ours".

Reconciliation: People to God and People to People

Reconciliation is at the core of the gospel and is often summed up in the two commandments from Matthew: Love God and Love thy neighbor. Reconciliation helps to look at Christian discipleship in reconciling people to God and reconciling people to people. It works in building relationships, partnering and working together across social and cultural barriers to work for justice for the entire community.

Redistribution: A Just Distribution of Resources

Being a good neighbor is working towards justice for the entire community and utilizing resources along the way. The redistribution principle is more than economics and is about empowering residence of a community to creatively engage in long-term development, in order to bring about healthy transformation. Redistribution is a look at equity and access, bringing skills, relationships, opportunities, and resources together and putting them at work.