

William & Mary
Retirement of Victoria A. Foster
School of Education

Victoria Ann Foster received her bachelor's degree from the New College at the University of Alabama in 1974, followed by a Master's degree in American Studies and Women's Studies in 1976. She received her Ed.D degree in Counselor Education and Supervision at North Carolina State University in 1989. Prior her position at William & Mary, Professor Foster held numerous roles in clinical practice including roles as Director of a community based residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; Director of a Residential Treatment program for emotionally disturbed girls for the Department of Child and Family Services in Raleigh, North Carolina; and Director of a recreational program for middle school children who were under the supervision of Juvenile Court in Asheville, North Carolina. Professor Foster subsequently held the position of Vice-President for Children's Services for Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas and held an adjunct faculty position at North Carolina State University before she was recruited for a tenure-track position at William & Mary.

Since joining the faculty at William & Mary in 1992, Professor Foster has been actively engaged in teaching, service, and scholarship. She received a New Faculty Teaching award in her first year followed subsequently by the Thomas Jefferson Award for Teaching Excellence and the Mentor of the Year Award from the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision among others. She has chaired over 50 doctoral dissertations over the years. In 1995 Professor Foster developed and launched the Marriage Couples and Family Counseling (MCFC) Specialization in the William & Mary Counseling Program, the first such specialization in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Throughout her tenure at William & Mary, Professor Foster maintained a rigorous research agenda with particular interest in applications of cognitive developmental theory in counseling research and practice. She has published 49 articles in well-respected professional journals as well as eight book chapters, and she has delivered over 120 professional presentations in national and international venues. For three consecutive years, Professor Foster received the Outstanding of Article of the Year Award from the Counselor Education and Supervision Journal, a leading professional journal in the Counseling field. Professor Foster's appointment at William & Mary included primary responsibility as Director of the New Horizons Family Counseling Center (NHFCC), a University-based counseling service providing free family services to children from seven regional school districts. Under Professor Foster's leadership, funding has since grown from \$7000 to \$78,000 annually and will increase in 2021 to \$95,000. Since 2008, the Williamsburg Health Foundation granted additional annual Board of Visitors

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funding to the NHFCC ranging from \$90,000 to \$110,000 for weekly group counseling services to high-risk families. Funding received by the NHFCC almost exclusively provides financial support for the master's and doctoral student interns who provide the Center's clinical services and administration.

Over the years, Professor Foster has been highly active in service to the School of Education, the University, the Counseling profession, and the community. She served as the Area Coordinator (now known as Department Chair) for School Psychology and Counselor Education for two terms. She has served on numerous standing College committees, including the International Advisory Committee for the Reves Center supporting internationally focused initiatives and study abroad. Professor Foster developed and implemented the first study abroad program for incoming William & Mary freshman with St. Andrews, the oldest institution of higher education in Scotland. Regarding service to her profession, Professor Foster served for three years on the Board of the Association for Moral Development and its Special Interest Group on Diversity. She was president of the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision and has been a long-standing member of its editorial board as well as a member of editorial boards for the International Association for Marriage & Counseling, the Journal of Moral Education, and The Family Journal. In addition to her long and continuing history of community service provision through the NHFCC, Professor Foster currently represents William & Mary as a member of New Horizons Health Foundation's Advisory Committee promoting collaborative engagement among school superintendents in addressing pressing mental health needs in six regional public school districts.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Victoria A. Foster; expresses its appreciation for her many contributions to William & Mary; and approves, with deep gratitude for her 29 years of service, a change in status from Professor of Education to Professor of Education, Emerita.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of the same delivered to Professor Foster with best wishes for continuing and creative work in the years ahead.