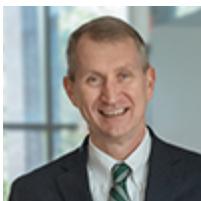




Engineering for all: Dean's Innovation Fund brings middle-school students to W&M for Camp EAGER

Thanks to a grant from the Dean's Innovation Fund, established in 2020 through a gift from the Jennings family, middle-schools students from Newport News Public Schools gathered on the W&M campus for a week-long camp to explore engineering design challenges. Leveraging a unique mentorship model and a focus on design literacy, the camp aims to inspire the next generation of scientists. [More](#).

FROM THE DEAN



Back to school is a time of joy. Even after 27 years of working in K-12 and higher education, the first day of a new school year brings a special thrill. Kids at the bus stop, back-to-school nights, orientations and first-day jitters — these sights and experiences are more meaningful than ever this year.

We've had to adjust our strategies and expectations many times as we move through this pandemic, and this fall will be no different. But we know that we are resilient and that we can not only survive, but thrive, through these challenges. There are a lot of distractions and conflict in education right now. But if we remain focused on our students and the joy of learning, we have so much to gain this year.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

NEWS & NOTES



Supporting homeless students through a pandemic: COVID relief funds expand the impact of Project Hope

Project Hope-VA has received more than \$13M in funding through the American Rescue Plan to support homeless youth in Virginia during the pandemic. The center, located at W&M, works with school divisions across the state to identify and provide support to students and families experiencing homelessness. [More.](#)



Six doctoral students named W&M Holmes Scholars

This year, six doctoral students in the W&M School of Education were selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education's (AACTE) Holmes Scholars Program based on their achievements and their commitment to diversity and equity. [More.](#)



What is Critical Race Theory? Resources for Educators

Critical Race Theory has garnered widespread attention and been highly politicized in recent months. The faculty in the School of Education collected resources to help educators and families better understand the theory. [More.](#)



An epidemiologist's guide for back-to-school planning

As K-12 students head back into classrooms, W&M News spoke with Carrie Dolan, an epidemiologist and assistant professor in health sciences. She is currently advising the local school district and preparing her own family for going back to school. [More.](#)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

MEET
OUR
NEWEST
FACULTY
MEMBERS



Denita Hudson
Clinical Assistant
Professor,
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling



Coralis Solomon
Clinical Assistant
Professor,
Clinical Mental
Health Counseling



Erica Wiborg
Visiting Assistant
Professor,
Higher Education

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 1: First day of on-campus classes
- Sept. 8: [Convocation](#)
- Sept. 13: [DEI Film Discussion: 9/11](#)
- Sept. 21: SURN's [4:00 Focus](#) series begins
- Sept. 28: [DEI Student Mingle & Trivia Night](#)



Mark your calendar for
**Homecoming & Reunion
Weekend,
October 7-10, 2021**

[Calendar of Events](#)



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