



William & Mary
School of Education

Engaging communities
Championing justice
Driving innovation

August 2023 :: Summer Happenings :: Tillman Scholar :: Education Advocacy :: SURN Leadership Conference :: Faculty Books :: Upcoming Events



Summer at the School of Education

FROM THE DEAN



As we welcome faculty and students for the 2023-2024 academic year, I hope the summer has provided opportunities for you to rest, relax and recharge. As you will see in this issue, summer at the School of Education was busy with people of all ages in the building attending camps, graduate courses, professional development events and more. All the activity this summer was a great reminder of the joy that comes from our profession and the importance of making connections. This year and every year in the School of Education, we are focused on advancing the first core value at William & Mary: *“We create a welcoming and caring community that embraces diverse people and perspectives.”*

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

SUMMER HAPPENINGS



Camp Launch & Camp Orbit

Camp Launch is an annual summer camp for high-ability middle and high school students from low-income backgrounds operated by the **Center for Gifted Education** at the William & Mary School of Education. This year, 255 students from 27 school divisions participated, an increase from 185 students in 2022. Due to increased enrollment at the 9th-grade level, students were offered three learning tracks in marine science, coding and biology.

Other 2023 highlights include collaboration with **Project HOPE**, Virginia's Program for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, administered by William & Mary for the Virginia Department of Education, and professional development for STEM teachers.

Camp Orbit, a project to extend the pipeline for STEM careers for Camp Launch alumni, was also introduced this summer. In collaboration with mentors from the Geology department and Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) who focus on biodiversity and climate change, Camp Orbit students gained research experience in science labs and opportunities to network with peers and former Camp Launch instructors.

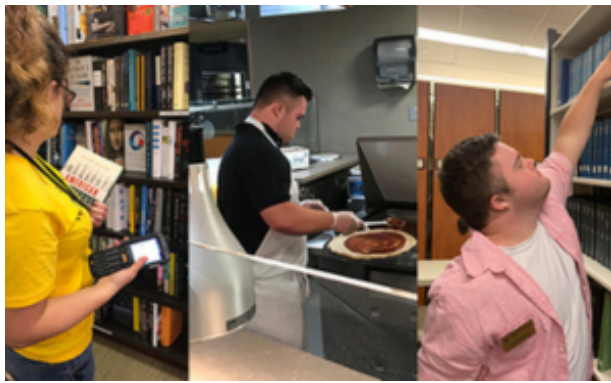


Camp Eager

Camp Eager is an experimental summer camp developed by researchers at the William & Mary School of Education to encourage more students from underrepresented backgrounds to pursue STEM careers. It has experienced significant growth since its establishment in 2021. The pilot program served 40 students, and in 2022, the camp expanded to more than 300. This year, approximately 450 campers participated, from rising 3rd-graders to rising 12th-graders. Projects ranged from designing robots to coding, character design, rocket building and drone camp (pictured above).

As described in a **previous Camp Eager article**, the research team recruited undergraduate students from William & Mary, primarily through a partnership with the **WMSURE** program, to assist teachers and serve as mentors to campers. The camp also provided an immersive, field-based experience for student teachers in training at the School of Education.

"Our preservice teachers reported that this early experience in a middle school helped develop their confidence going into the fall semester," said Meredith Kier, associate professor of science education and one of the directors of Camp Eager.



Next Move @ W&M

Next Move @ W&M is a grant-funded, William & Mary-sponsored research project started in 2018 to support youth and young adults with developmental disabilities in our community. In partnership with the William & Mary School of Education, Next Move @ W&M creates on-campus, guided summer internships paired with classroom-based transition skills instruction to provide a thoughtful and interactive experience. The mission of Next Move @ W&M is to combat the estimated 70% unemployment rate for young adults with diverse needs in the Commonwealth.



Eastern Virginia Writing Project (EVWP): Summer Institute & Youth Writing Camp

Twelve teachers enrolled in the **EVWP Summer Institute**, a professional development opportunity to improve writing and learning. They studied how to teach writing in their classrooms, in every K-12 subject area. Fifteen local students joined the **Youth Writing Camp**, a week-long, in-person camp to practice writing in different genres and exploring their creativity as authors and artists.

"Creative writing doesn't get a lot of time and attention in a traditional classroom, so it was fun to dive into the kids' imaginations. I especially loved hearing all of their ideas for their morning quick writes based on pictures," said their teacher Katie Brownfiel '20. "They all wrote something to be proud of, and I hope that this instills a passion and curiosity for the craft of writing that will carry with them far beyond the summer. It was such an engaging and fun experience. It really re-energized me as a teacher and reminded me how much joy and fun can be incorporated into the classroom."



M2 Summer Camp

At the first M2 Summer Camp in 2022, Gladys Krause, assistant professor of mathematics education, artist Maria Emilia '11, and ESL teacher Caroline Finchum brought learning to life through the creation of a new art mural, the first in a series of four planned learning experiences.

Part two was completed this year at the second M2 Summer Camp. New and returning students from second through eighth grade participated in the camp. All of the participants are multilingual immigrant students who speak Spanish, Pashto, Farsi and English, and each of these languages is represented in the mural. Each mural is the culmination of the students' work throughout the year.

"For this year we foregrounded mathematics through geometry. We mainly focused on tessellations, language, and culture, but of course other mathematical concepts are present as well," said Krause. "Language has always been a key component of the work I do in mathematics, and this year we decided to work on poems to identify patterns in rhymes and rhythms as a way of sharing the beauty of mathematics." Watch a video of the new mural from start to finish. [More.](#)

Literacy Lab Offers Summer Intensive on Reading Instruction

This summer, the [William & Mary Literacy Lab](#) partnered with adjunct faculty member [Ellen Frackelton M.A.Ed. '19](#) to facilitate a professional development intensive for area teachers on teaching phonics. Over 70 teachers spanning eight divisions signed up for this opportunity, which involved four virtual sessions in July and a face-to-face meeting in August. Sessions included building foundational and pedagogical knowledge alongside practical tips for classroom teaching, management and organization. [More.](#)



NEWS & NOTES

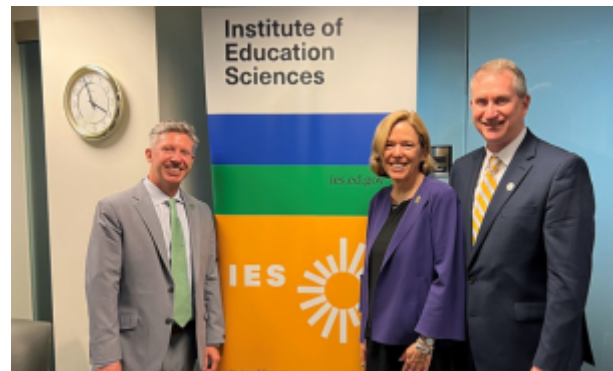


Evan Turner Named 2023 Tillman Scholar

In recognition of academic excellence and commitment to community service, Evan Turner, a student in the Online Military and Veterans Counseling program at William & Mary, has been named a 2023 Tillman Scholar. Out of thousands of applicants nationwide and across all disciplines, Turner is among the group of only 60 scholars chosen for this prestigious honor. [More.](#)

Books published by William & Mary faculty in 2023

A look at books authored or edited by William & Mary faculty and published. Pamela N. Harris, Clinical Assistant Professor in the Online Counseling Program, published a fiction YA novel, *This Town is on Fire*. [More.](#)



W&M School of Education Team Advocates for Education Priorities

Dean Knoepfel, Betsy Talbot and Jim Barber traveled to Washington D.C. to share faculty expertise in educational policy and practice and highlight School of Education programs that serve the Commonwealth and the profession. [More.](#)



2023 Keynote Speakers



Annual SURN Leadership Conference

25th Annual SURN Leadership Conference

The School-University Resource Network (SURN) held its 25th Annual Leadership Conference, June 20-21, at the William & Mary School of Education. This year's theme was Leadership in a Time of Change.

"We're facing fast, sometimes frantic, and occasionally furious change in education," said Executive Director Amy Colley M.A.Ed. '90, M.Ed. '01, Ed.D. '14, in her welcome to attendees. "Sometimes the problems we encounter seem tangled beyond repair. This week we'll have a chance to tug on a few of these threads and see if we can loosen the knots together." [More.](#)



Juneteenth at William & Mary

Faculty and staff from the School of Education pose for a group photo at William & Mary's [2023 Juneteenth Celebration](#) at the Sadler Center on June 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 30: First day of on-campus classes
- Aug. 30: [Opening Convocation](#)
- Sept. 22: [2023 Fall Diversity Brunch/Expo](#)
- Sept. 22: [Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium](#)
- Sept. 29: [2023 Fall Graduate & Professional School Fair](#)
- Oct. 18: [Support All Individual Learners \(SAIL\)](#)
- Oct. 19-22: [Homecoming & Reunion Weekend](#)
- Oct. 20: [School of Education Day for Prospective Students](#)
- Oct. 24-Dec. 6: [Don't We Already Do Inclusion?](#)

SHARE A STORY

Let us know what you're up to!

MAKE A GIFT

Support the School of Education



William & Mary
School of Education

Message sent by:

School of Education, William & Mary
PO Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23185