

February 2024 :: Youth Mentoring Partnership :: Aprendiendo Juntos Project :: Awards :: W&M Year of the Arts :: Faculty Podcast Interviews :: Events



Photo by JW Photography

Local Partnership Provides Youth Mentoring

As a mental health professional dedicated to uplifting traditionally underserved populations, much of Associate Professor Janise Parker's research and scholarship centers on the power of mentorship. She has consistently engaged students in mentorship opportunities that promote mental health and diversity among the William & Mary population. Her work also extends beyond the university into the local community.

"As a school psychologist, I understand how high-quality mentoring can help youth grow socially and emotionally, and as a result, serve as a useful strategy for preventing or minimizing mental health challenges they may experience later in life," she explains. [More](#)

FROM THE DEAN



Charter Day brings the opportunity to interact with friends and alumni of the School of Education. This university-wide celebration reminds us of the values we hold dear as an institution. In the School of Education, those closely held values include building quality relationships, providing close mentoring and creating immersive training experiences for our students to master their skills.

As educators, the notion of ‘meeting people where they are’ is fundamental to providing an outstanding experience for students. I’m grateful for the many stories that were shared with me these past two weeks from our alumni and friends. Hearing how these values were foundational to their William & Mary experience and prepared them for success as professionals was truly inspiring. Thank you to all members of our community — faculty, staff, alumni and friends — for your commitment to William & Mary and our field.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

NEWS & NOTES



Aprendiendo Juntos: A Love Letter to Immigrant Families

The interdisciplinary collaboration between Sociology Professor Jennifer Bickham Mendez and Associate Professor of ESL/Bilingual Education Katherine Barko-Alva has taken many forms since the two first began working together nearly eight years ago. They have studied community-building among English language learners, particularly high school youth, offered Interpretation services for ESL teachers at family nights, and trained William & Mary students to provide tutoring at local schools. Over time, the logistics of their outreach efforts have changed, but what has never wavered is their shared commitment to improving the lives of immigrant families in the community. [More](#)

School of Education Alumni Recognized by Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Schools



Evelyn Whitt M.Ed. '20

2024 WJCC High School Teacher of the Year

— **Evelyn Whitt M.Ed. '20** teaches English as a second language at Jamestown High School and has been an educator for 18 years.

“They’re so resilient,” she said. “The will to learn that they bring to the classroom — the work ethic — is unlike anything I’ve seen before. We welcome anybody and everybody. We meet people where they are, and we’ve built an amazing community here.” **More**



Laura C. Beudet Cert '21, M.A.Ed. '21

2024 WJCC Teacher of the Year — Laura C. Beudet

Cert '21, M.A.Ed. '21 is an 8th grade English teacher and Learning Specialist at Lois S. Hornsby Middle School and has been an educator for three years.



Mary Anne Cummins M.A.Ed. '00

2024 WJCC Teacher of the Year — Mary Anne Cummins

M.A.Ed. '00 teaches first grade at Norge Elementary. She has been an educator for 32 years.



Chon Glover Named One of Top 50 Women Leaders in Virginia

William & Mary Chief Diversity Officer Chon Glover M.Ed. 99, Ed.D. '06, was recognized as one of the top 50 women leaders in Virginia for 2024. A School of Education alum from master's and doctoral programs, Glover provides leadership on campus and in the



Congratulations to Kayla Burton!

Please join us in congratulating Kayla Burton '22, M.Ed. '24, for being selected as the 2024-2025 Leadership Intern for Counseling Academic & Professional Honor Society Chi Sigma Iota. In this role Kayla will complete projects related to the mission and goals of

community on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and advancing university initiatives that foster inclusion, equity, and success. [More](#)

CSI. Congratulations to Kayla on this amazing opportunity!



School of Education Alumni Earn 2024 Service Awards

Two School of Education alumni received **2024 Service Awards**. The awards were bestowed by the W&M Alumni Association at a ceremony during Charter Day Weekend.

Carlton R. Smith '15, M.Ed. '17, earned a Douglas N. Morton '62 Young Alumni Service Award to recognize outstanding alumni engagement. In Smith's role as co-chair of the Young Guard Council and the Young Guard's representative on the W&M Alumni Association's Board of Directors, he is described as a "fierce advocate for alumni service, saying 'Do you see places where we can improve or give back? Get involved! Advocate!' He adds, 'Being active means that when students look for help to bring positive change, they may look to us.'"

Roxane O. Adler Hickey M.Ed. '02, Ed.D. '23, earned the Staff Service Award. Director of the W&M Washington Center, she is described as "the definition of a campus leader and an alumni engagement advocate." Adler Hickey works diligently to engage W&M alumni in the D.C. metro area.

"I am proud to be a part of an incredible team and to collaborate with so many people and units across the university. I am proud to work with dedicated alumni who connect with our students in D.C. and help them find fulfilling careers," she says. [More](#)

YEAR OF THE ARTS



Carla Canales, photo by Flaminia Fanale

The new semester brings with it a vast array of opportunities for people to enjoy the arts at William & Mary as the university continues its celebration of the **Year of the Arts**.

Carla Canales, Senior Advisor and Envoy for Cultural Exchange for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), will deliver the 2024 McSwain-Walker Lecture at William & Mary on Monday, February 19, at 5 p.m. in the Comey Recital Hall in the new Music Arts Center. The lecture, entitled "The Power of the Arts as a Diplomatic Tool" is free and open to the public.

Carla Canales has been praised by Opera Magazine for possessing a voice that “grabs the heartstrings with its dramatic force and musicality.” She has won acclaim on leading stages around the world as a performer while also being recognized as a thought leader, advocate, and entrepreneur. In early 2023, Carla joined the Biden Administration as the first Senior Advisor and Envoy for Cultural Exchange, a newly created position at the National Endowment for the Arts. **More**

Faculty Podcast Interviews



Reading Road Trip Podcast




*A romantic gift for Saint Valentine's day Image Source: Marco Verch .
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The Reading Road Trip podcast recently interviewed Associate Professor of Reading Education Kristin Conradi Smith '99, Clinical Instructor of Literacy Education Tamara Williams and Ellen Frackelton M.A.Ed. '19. The trio discussed research-based comprehension strategies for the classroom, including considerations for text selection and preparation, common pitfalls to avoid and “use it tomorrow” ideas. Bottom line: no more strategy of the week!

 [Listen](#)

Let's Talk About Love, Baby – With Good Reason

Assistant Professor in the W&M Counselor Education Program Amber Pope, joins With Good Reason Radio for "Let's Talk About Love, Baby" airing in February to coincide with Valentine's Day. A Licensed Professional Counselor who coordinates the Couples, Marriage & Family Counseling concentration, Pope "shares how attachment theory and strong support networks can help people thrive in a safe and secure partnership." 

[Listen](#)



Stop Telling and Start Listening

Fred Huby Memorial Professor of Education Jamel K. Donnor (left) was interviewed by Dave Cooke (right) on The Cooke Group podcast Stop Telling and Start Listening for an episode on Critical Race Theory. From the episode description:

With his rich experience in teaching and discussing race, Professor Donnor offers a unique perspective that goes beyond the headlines. We're not just talking about racism - we're exploring how it's taught, discussed, and understood in our society.

Is Critical Race Theory an essential tool for understanding, or a divisive topic in 'woke' culture? Join us for an enlightening conversation that promises to be as informative as it is thought-provoking. Tune in, join the dialogue, and let's explore these questions together.

[Watch](#)



Deadline extended for our Teacher Education (including Literacy Leadership/Reading Specialist), Executive Ed.D., Higher Education (M.Ed. and Ph.D.), K-12 Leadership, Gifted Education, and Curriculum and Educational Leadership programs.

[Learn More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 19: [The Power of the Arts as a Diplomatic Tool](#)

Feb. 23-24: [2E @ W&M: Twice Exceptional Conference](#)

Feb. 27: [Faculty Research: Current Research at the Center for Gifted Education](#)

Feb. 29: [Virtual Teach Happier This Year: Small Shifts; Big Ideas](#)

Feb. 29: [Leap into the Muscarelle: Educator Open House](#)

SHARE A STORY

Let us know what you're up to!

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