

November 2024 :: “Science of Teaching Reading” Conference :: Education Week :: Bray School Dedication :: Military Family Appreciation Month :: Upcoming Events



“Science of Teaching Reading” conference packs the house at the School of Education

On October 22, three centers at the School of Education teamed up to host their third “Science of Teaching Reading” Conference. Offered jointly by the **School-University Resource Network (SURN)**, **Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC)** and the **Literacy Lab**, the one-day event is designed to empower teachers as learning leaders in their reading classrooms. Over 200 teachers, leaders and undergraduate students attended from all over the state, with registration closing early due to high demand.

“When we were designing this year’s conference, we were very intentional about selecting speakers and topics that would support teachers by providing immediate, practical and actionable information they could apply the next day in their classrooms,” said the Dr. Virginia L. McLaughlin Associate Professor of Education Kristin Conradi Smith '99, co-director of the Literacy Lab.

To provide practical guidance for teachers, the School of Education announced the inaugural cohort of Translating Research Into Practice (TRIP) Fellows last year. Of the eight Virginia teachers chosen, four were present at the “Science of Reading” conference to offer poster sessions on their projects, including Megan Crowe, Kimberly Ellis MA.Ed. '23, Emma Wise '21, MA.Ed. '22 and Adele LaFontaine (pictured above).

Posters displaying their one-page guides, which showcase empirical research and translate cutting-edge scholarship into practical and concise documents for teachers, were available in the event space throughout the day. The Literacy Lab is providing free public access to all the [TRIP fellow guides](#) on their website. [More](#).

FROM THE DEAN



Next week, we celebrate our fifth annual Education Week in the School of Education. It's the perfect opportunity to honor the impact of our profession and the tremendous work of those who are dedicated to making lasting change.

On Monday, we launch W&M Education Week with a screening of "Voices of Integration," a documentary film and panel discussion exploring the experiences of members of the Class of 1969 who were the first class to experience mandatory integration in Williamsburg-James City County Schools. Two class members interviewed for the documentary will attend as panelists, along with W&M faculty members, community leaders and a school board member. We look forward to a thoughtful and engaging discussion.

I hope that each of you will again join me in thanking an educator who has had an impact on you, and that you'll find time to celebrate with us this week. Please visit education.wm.edu/aew.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel



Education Week 2024

November 18-22, 2024 is the fifth annual William & Mary Education Week. We take this opportunity to celebrate the people, projects and ideas that are driving the future of education. We'll be highlighting teachers and educational leaders, as well as the students who will become the next generation of educators.

Get involved:

- Use free [Education Week downloads](#).
- Share your #ProudEducator story.
- Highlight the work of your favorite teacher using #ThankanEducator on social media.
- Use #WMEducationWeek and tag @WMSOE so we can share your message!

FEATURED EVENT



“Voices of Integration” screening and panel Discussion

Monday, Nov. 18, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join the School of Education community for the “Voices of Integration” documentary film screening & panel discussion on mandatory integration in WJCC Schools.

In 2022, Black students from the Class of 1969 gathered to share their experiences of school integration in Williamsburg, Virginia. The Class of 1969 was the first fully integrated class to graduate from the Williamsburg-James City County (WJCC) Public Schools. “Voices of Integration” explores their experiences of mandatory integration in WJCC Schools. The documentary screening will be followed by a panel presentation featuring W&M faculty members, local leaders and members of affiliated organizations to discuss the film and address the lasting impact of unfinished integration today.

Space is limited, and registration is required. **Register.**



Bray School dedication prompts celebration and reflection 250 years after closure

The Williamsburg Bray School stood tall on the afternoon of November 1 after being moved and restored throughout the last 18 months. New wood roofing made the building look almost as fresh as when it opened in 1760, but all that occurred there centuries ago is still yet to be discovered – with William & Mary playing a major role.

Hundreds gathered on the lawn of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg for the school's formal dedication, an event co-hosted by William & Mary. It is the oldest surviving building dedicated to the formal education of enslaved and free Black children. Nearly 400 students, ages 3-10, were taught over its 14 years as a school. The restored structure will formally open as part of Colonial Williamsburg in spring 2025. Since 2021, researchers at the W&M **Bray School Lab** have made significant progress toward learning more about the enslaved and free students who attended it. [More.](#)



W&M School of Education awarded \$3M to tackle youth mental health crisis and bolster mental health workforce

As we celebrate National School Psychology Week, we have exciting news to share! The



Project HOPE-Virginia: Understanding the McKinney-Vento Act

Have you heard of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act? **Project HOPE-Virginia** is the office of the state coordinator

William & Mary School of Education's School Psychology program has been awarded \$3 million to address the ongoing mental health crisis among youth. Associate Dean, Director of Inclusive Excellence and Associate Professor of School Psychology Leandra Parris is Principal Investigator (PI) of the program with Associate Professor of School Psychology Janise Parker serving as co-PI.

The landmark funding will be allocated over five years from 2025 to 2029 to support "Training Empowered Advocates for Mental Health in Schools," or Project TEAMS, designed to build a sustainable pipeline of diverse, highly trained school psychologists dedicated to serving high-needs K-12 school divisions in Virginia. [More.](#)

for the education of homeless children and youth. It has been a center at the William & Mary School of Education since 1995. Project HOPE-Virginia administers the funding and implements the mandates authorized by the McKinney-Vento Act for the Virginia Department of Education. This includes creating tools for local McKinney-Vento liaisons, educators and other school staff to learn how they can identify these students and connect them to the supports needed to experience educational stability despite their high mobility. Watch our short [McKinney-Vento Quick Guide Video](#) to learn more about McKinney-Vento and share this information with others. Make sure to visit the [Project HOPE-Virginia Learning Library](#) to access other videos and resources.



Boost 200+ Pays for Supervision for Residents in Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy and Supervisees in Social Work

The Virginia Health Care Foundation is accepting applications for Boost 200+, a program that accelerates licensure of Supervisees in Social Work and Residents in Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy planning to practice in Virginia. Boost 200+ pays for licensure-required Supervision of those paying for all or most of their Supervision.

Learn more at www.VHCF.org/boost200. Questions? Email boost200@vhcf.org.



Military Family Appreciation Month Spotlight

In honor of Military Family Appreciation Month, we are sharing a Q&A with Clinical Assistant Professor in Counselor Education LaToya Chambers, who has expertise working within military systems and serving military connected populations.

How does your work help address difficulties and/or support military families?

There are numerous behaviors including suicide, substance abuse, family violence and crime that threaten the safety and well-being of our service members and directly impact their immediate support systems like family members and their communities at-large. A significant portion of my work over the last few years has been dedicated to not only identifying high-risk behaviors among service members but collaborating with stakeholders including command teams to determine ways to reduce and eliminate these high-risk behaviors. By helping service members remain healthy and thriving, we also provide support to military families who face numerous challenges and sacrifices to support their loved ones.

How can we as a community be supportive of military families?

Supporting military members and their families should remain a top priority as we often depend on the resilience of these families for our safety and well-being as a nation. Support comes in various forms and on different levels. At a minimum, we should strive to ensure military families feel accepted by and connected to the community and that their needs are being met. Something as simple as volunteering at an organization that serves military families can be a way of showing support. Communities that provide various resources and services that meet the needs of military families is another example. Having empathy, compassion, concern and a heart for our service members and their families is probably the most important thing we can do to be supportive.

Halloween 2024



School of Education reading instruction at Clara Byrd Baker Elementary

By Kelli Claiborne M.Ed. '25, Ed.S. '27

Electricity flowed through the halls of Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School on Halloween. Teachers and students alike were excited to show off their costumes and indulge in delicious sweets. Amid the excitement was a class of 18 William & Mary Curriculum & Instruction students preparing to read with kindergarteners. Their excitement and nerves were palpable as they practiced their read aloud lessons for “My Lucky Day” by Keiko Kasza and asked their last-minute questions of clinical instructor Tamara Williams. After receiving encouragement from Williams, it was time for the

students to meet their kindergarteners!

Each W&M student gathered with small groups of two- to- five students from four kindergarten classes. The kindergarteners practiced writing, spelling, structuring a sentence and drawing out a scene from the story. Throughout the lessons Williams visited each group to answer questions and give encouragement. Walking past each group, it was impossible not to hear student teachers talking kindergarteners through lessons with questions like “What letter makes the /p/ sound in the word pig?” or “Why do you think the wolf was having a lucky day?” All around, learning was easy to see.



Halloween spirit at the School of Education

The School of Education was full of Halloween fun on October 31! Students, faculty and staff embraced the spooky spirit, dressing up in a variety of costumes. Costumes ranged from Superman and wizards to School Psychology students dressed as their professor Ryan McGill, the John W. & Sue H. Gerdelman Associate Professor of Education in School Psychology (pictured above, center).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 18-22: [W&M Education Week, Take Ten: Gratitude Events](#)

Nov. 18: [“Voices of Integration” Documentary Film & Panel Discussion](#)

Nov. 20: [Libraries & STLI Workshop: Ally for Accessibility](#)

Nov. 20: [Zoom Webinar: Building your Grant Budget 101](#)

Dec. 3: [Inclusion Palooza](#)

Dec. 4: [STLI Quick Bite | Change One Thing Series: Change One Thing Problems](#)

Dec. 4: [T/TAC: High-Quality IEP Goals & Progress Monitoring: Inclusive Leadership Series](#)

Dec 10: [Libraries & STLI Workshop: Ally for Accessibility](#)

Upcoming [Admissions Webinars](#):

- Nov. 18: [Counselor Education Ph.D.](#)
- Nov. 19: [Counseling M.Ed.](#)
- Dec. 3: [ESL/ Bilingual Education](#)
- Dec. 3: [Elementary Education](#)
- Dec. 4: [Gifted Education, Certificate](#)

SHARE A STORY

Let us know what you're up to!

MAKE A GIFT

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