



William & Mary
School of Education

Engaging communities
Championing justice
Driving innovation

February 2025 :: Year of the Environment :: Charter Day 2025 Awards :: One Student's Journey in Education :: Three Pivotal Keynotes :: Upcoming Events :: Select Application Deadlines Extended



William & Mary launches Year of the Environment at Charter Day

During the Charter Day ceremony on Feb. 7, William & Mary launched the Year of the Environment – celebrating its estuarine campus and renewing its commitments to healthy ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

The yearlong observance will advance sustainability efforts on campus and expand William & Mary's impact around the world. [More.](#)

Watch a livestream of the event on the [Charter Day website](#).

FROM THE DEAN



At the core of a thriving democracy is a system of education that empowers all children and families to engage meaningfully in civil discourse. This month, I've been reflecting on **how** education contributes to the health of our democracy. I'm struck by the importance of building community, engaging productively with others, even when we disagree, and equitable access to a system of education that fosters a love of reading, numeracy, inquiry, critical thinking and problem solving.

These values are foundational to the educational programs in the School of Education, and they are the reason for the success of our graduates. Building community can start with something as simple as an act of kindness. I invite you to join us as we celebrate Virginia Kindness Week and as we join the university in promoting National Random Acts of Kindness Day on Feb. 17. Let's help them meet their goal of recording 100,000 acts of kindness!

— Dean Rob Knoeppel



William & Mary celebrates **National Random Acts of Kindness Day** on Feb. 17. The effort is part of an ongoing Office of Health Promotion initiative that has a goal of recording 100,000 acts of kindness. Visit tables in the Sadler Center, Swem Library and Bee McLeod Recreation Center on Feb. 17 or use this form: <https://go.wm.edu/FVZCJD>

NEWS & NOTES



Celebrating excellence: W&M's 2025 Charter Day awards

Two students and two faculty members were recognized at William & Mary's Charter Day ceremony on Feb. 7 for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the community. We are proud to recognize W&M School of Education student honoree Alison Mayer '25 (pictured above, far left), who earned the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership.

Debbie Ramer, clinical faculty in special education/director of the special education program and co-director of the Literacy Lab, says Mayer is highly deserving of the award.

"Alison emulates the qualities and characteristics iterated by the James Monroe Prize in Civic Leadership through her sustained leadership in multiple service organizations, deep commitment to the inclusion and success of individuals with a variety of disabilities, willingness to examine and address challenges and ability to encourage and inspire others to similarly commit to service," Ramer wrote. **More.**



Rediscovering a Passion for Teaching, One Student's Journey

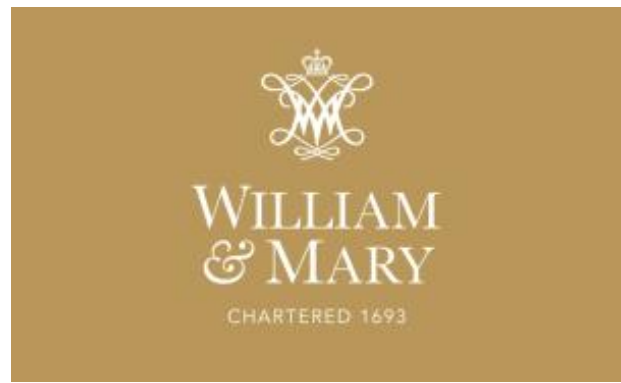
An Elementary Education and Psychology double major, Margaret Barr '25 was initially unsure about choosing William & Mary. What changed her perspective about joining the Tribe was being able to connect with W&M student contacts. She reached out to each of the schools where she was accepted and asked student ambassadors to describe their student body in one word.

"All three of the W&M contacts used the word 'kind.' Other people used words like motivated, committed or all these other really amazing adjectives. But I realized, I want to go to the place where the three random people, who probably don't even know each other, all landed on the word describing the community as kind," she said. **More.**



Hannah Franz Wins 2025 CCCC Richard Braddock Award

Hannah Franz '07, Ph.D. '19, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, has won the 2025 Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) Richard Braddock Award for "Black Linguistic Justice from Theory to Practice," published in the June 2024 issue of College Composition and Communication. The article is coauthored with Michelle Petty, Angela



Nominations for the 2025 Charles and Virginia Duke Award Now open

Nominations for the **2025 Charles and Virginia Duke Award** are now open. Given annually since 1997, this award honors an outstanding employee who is neither a student nor an instructional faculty member. How to submit a nomination:

- Nominees may work in a full-time or part-time capacity for the university or for a contractor providing auxiliary services to William & Mary.
- Nominations should reflect the university's workforce.
- Nominations will be submitted via the **online nomination form**.
- Submissions are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025.



Pamela Eddy Featured on the "EdUp Provost" Podcast

In this conversation with "EdUp Provost" host Gregor Thuswaldner, **Pamela Eddy** discusses her insights on equity-driven leadership in community colleges, the challenges faced by provosts and the importance of data in driving equity initiatives. She emphasizes the need for transformative leadership, the role of communities of practice and the significance of fostering partnerships to

Rowell, Marie Tano, Sierra J. Johnson and Anne Charity Hudley.

The award letter praised the article: “Franz et al.’s work models how writing instructors can live out their commitment to helping students make informed choices in their writing, how writing researchers can meaningfully collaborate with a range of constituents, and how researchers can keep the student populations they hope to benefit at the heart of their work by including them as co-researchers. We can think of no better representation of what we hope work in writing studies might do.”

enhance student success. Eddy also highlights the importance of celebrating successes and creating an environment of care within educational institutions.

Takeaways

- Equity-driven leadership focuses on transformative practices.
- Data is essential for understanding student success and equity gaps.
- Celebrating student successes can create a positive environment.
- Inclusive teaching practices are vital for faculty development. **Listen.**



Three pivotal keynotes on social justice in public schools, policy and discourse

As the university **honored the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.**, and February is **Black History Month**, the William & Mary (W&M) School of Education has hosted three recent events highlighting aspects of social justice in public schools, policy and discourse.

On January 27, the W&M School of Education School Psychology program hosted its fifth annual Inclusive Excellence Summit for School-Based Mental Health Providers. The summit has grown in popularity from 54 professionals in its first year to 228 this year, with attendance both in person and virtual.

Keynote Speaker Charles Barrett, author of “It’s Always About the Children, Today” and “Social Justice in Schools” discussed the importance of social justice in the lives of students, families and the communities that school-based mental health professionals serve. He described examples of what social justice can look like in schools, and how professionals can make it into a reality. **More.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 11: Faculty Research Brief: The Enduring Nature of School Segregation


Feb 12: T/TAC Restoring Hope: Building Systems to Improve Educator Retention Inclusive Leadership Series

Feb 17: National Random Acts of Kindness Day

Feb. 22: CFGE K-12 Saturday Enrichment Program

Feb 27: CFGE 2e @ W&M: Twice Exceptional Online Conference

Mar. 27-28: CFGE National Curriculum Networking Conference



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**APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED
FOR SELECT PROGRAMS**

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[HTTPS://EDUCATION.WM.EDU/DEADLINES](https://education.wm.edu/deadlines)*

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