

January 2025 :: Reading instruction at local elementary school :: Patricia Popp Lifetime Achievement Award :: Student Travel Journal :: ASHE Annual Conference :: Upcoming Events :: Select Application Deadlines Extended



## Innovative lab model brings undergraduate education students into elementary classrooms

Elementary reading instruction sprang to life this fall when William & Mary B.A.Ed. students engaged in their coursework at a local school. Throughout the semester, students at the School of Education have been studying reading instruction at Clara Byrd Baker (CBB) Elementary School.

“We’ve worked closely with Williamsburg-James City County Schools to make this happen,” said Kristin Conradi Smith ’99, the Dr. Virginia L. McLaughlin Associate Professor of Education and coordinator of the Elementary Education program.

“This model allows students to learn about a concept, observe it in action and help in classrooms. It’s more of a medical model than a traditional educational model, and we think it really sets our program apart from others in the state.” **More.**



Happy New Year! As the semester begins, the School of Education will host opportunities to advance our shared value of inclusive excellence and to affirm our commitment to building strong and just institutions. Inclusion is at the heart of our work as educators and scholars, and it remains central to our vision, mission and values.

As part of William & Mary's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Day on Jan. 30, we are co-sponsoring world-renowned scholar Clayborne Carson. On Feb. 5, the Hauben Distinguished Lecture series features education law and policy expert Derek Black, who will discuss his latest book on literacy in the American South.

I look forward to welcoming those who can attend these events and send best wishes for the school year ahead.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

## NEWS & NOTES



### William & Mary School of Education Celebrates Patricia Popp's Lifetime Achievement Award

In November 2024, Patricia Popp Ph.D. '01 was honored with the Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) in recognition of her unwavering support for students experiencing homelessness. Her efforts as the state coordinator for Project HOPE-Virginia, a role she assumed in 2003, have profoundly impacted the lives of countless children and families across the Commonwealth. [More.](#)



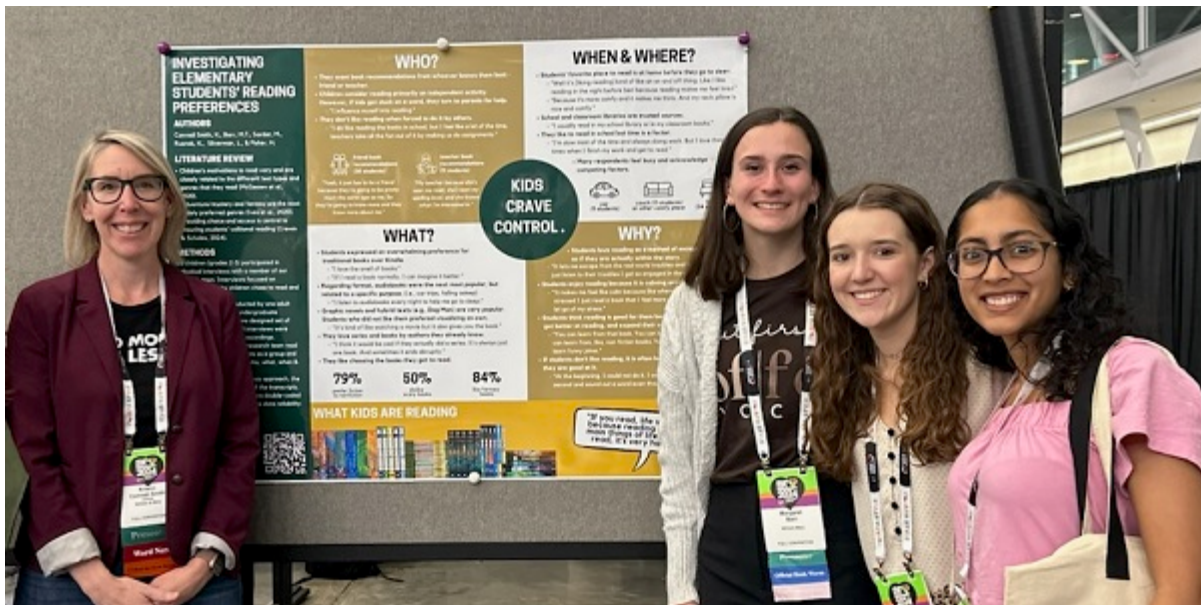
## Education Books Published by W&M Faculty in 2024

“A Blueprint for Equity-driven Community College Leadership” by **Pamela L. Eddy** and Kim VanDerLinden outlines a three-part model that can strengthen collaboration among institutional leaders and create resilient, equitable communities of practice.

“Exploring Complexities in College Student Development: Critical Lessons From Researching Students’ Journeys” by Patricia M. King, Rosemary J. Perez, and **James P. Barber** explores how college students address life challenges and develop the self-authoring capacities needed to deal with the ambiguities and complexities of life after graduation. **More.**

## “Gifted Child Today” Special Issue: W&M Center for Gifted Education

The January 2025 issue of “Gifted Child Today” is a special edition featuring the **Center for Gifted Education at William & Mary**. “Gifted Child Today” is a quarterly peer-reviewed journal that offers timely information about teaching and parenting gifted and talented children. As the leading resource in the field, “Gifted Child Today” includes regular columns by the nation’s most respected experts in the field of gifted education. The current issue features scholarly works by CFGE faculty members on topics ranging from the center’s current research and scholarship to pre-collegiate programs and professional development for teachers. **More.**



## Student Travel Journal: Maya Sardar '25

In November, a group of five undergraduate students attended the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference in Boston to present research they have been conducting with the **W&M School of Education Literacy Lab**. The group included Margaret Barr '25, Hailey Fisher '27, Katie Rusnak '26, Maya Sardar '25 and Lily Silverman '26. All received full funding from the Charles Center to travel and present their findings. The group is now writing a manuscript that will be submitted for publication in a peer-review journal. Senior Maya Sardar '25 (above, far right) documented her experience of presenting at a prestigious national conference. **More.**

## Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) Conference 2024

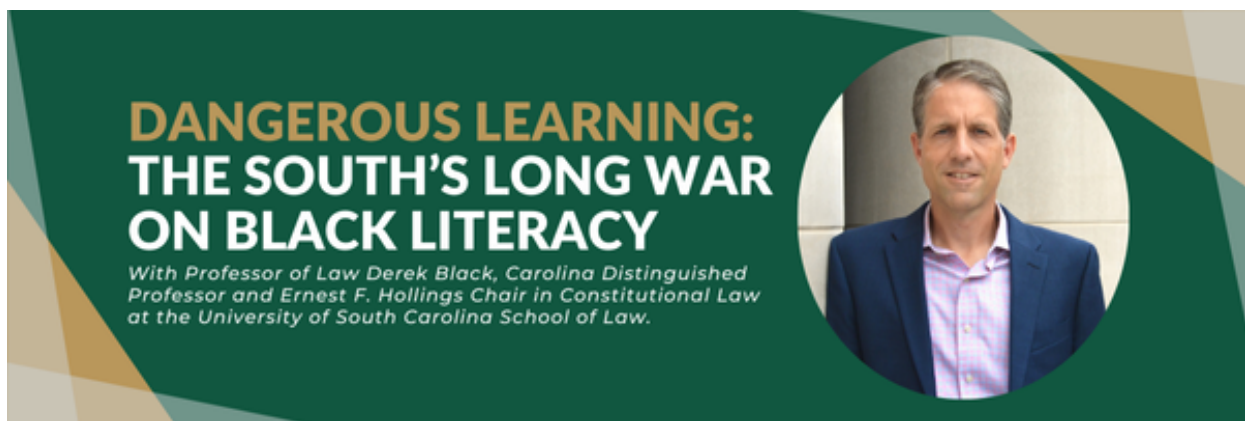
School of Education Higher Education students and faculty attended the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) 49th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Nov. 20-23. The

conference provides a platform for higher education professionals to engage in discussions, share research and network with other members of the ASHE community.

This year's event featured presentations from faculty members Melissa Whatley, Chelsea Smith, Ray Mitic (pictured below, right), Erica Wiborg and Amanda Simpenderfer. Students Hannah Dow '23, M.Ed. '25, and Alena Chaplygina Ph.D. '26 presented "Teach Me to Teach: Investigating Preparing Future Faculty Experiences of Racially Marginalized Graduate Students" with Chelsea Smith (pictured below, left).



## Hauben Distinguished Lecture 2025



### **Derek Black, Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina and Ernest F. Hollings Chair in Constitutional Law**

*February 5, 2025, Book signing 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m., Lecture 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

Join the W&M School of Education and **The Institute for the Study of Education, Democracy & Justice** for a book signing and lecture with Derek Black. One of the nation's foremost experts in education law and policy, Black will discuss his most recent book, "Dangerous Learning: The South's Long War on Black Literacy" (Yale University Press, January 2025). In it, he shows that in the American South, between Revolution and Reconstruction, one resource was perhaps more coveted and contested than any other: literacy. For Black citizens, it was a weapon of empowerment and rebellion, while for whites, it was the only tool that could destabilize their grip on power. The ghosts of this fight live on today.

This lecture is supported through a generous endowed gift established by Margaret Divens Hauben '59 and her husband, the late Lawrence A. Hauben, with the purpose of supporting the School of Education in its efforts to bring renowned scholars to William & Mary.

Please RSVP by Jan. 27.

# Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
COMMEMORATION SPEAKER  
DR. CLAYBORNE CARSON**

*Presented by the Center for Student Diversity in  
partnership with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and  
W&M School of Education*

**Thursday, January 30, 2025, 5:00 P.M.  
Salder Center: Commonwealth Auditorium**

  
WILLIAM  
& MARY  
CHARTERED 1775

*Jan. 30, 2025, 5 p.m., Sadler Center: Commonwealth Auditorium*

The Center for Student Diversity, in partnership with the Office of Diversity & Inclusion and the W&M School of Education, invite you to join us for a fireside chat with Dr. Clayborne Carson, world-renowned Martin Luther King Jr. scholar, as we discuss historical reflections on activism and the intersection of Dr. King's philosophy with contemporary movements for justice and equality.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Jan. 22, 23, 28, 29: School of Education Student Welcome Lunch**

**Jan. 24: 2025 Spring K-12 Education Recruitment Day**

**Jan. 28: Forward to Justice: MLK March to the Hearth**

**Jan. 30: Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration**

**Feb. 4: SURN Multilingual Learners 101 Workshop: Teaching Academic Content and Literacy through an ESL Lens**

**Feb. 5: Hauben Distinguished Lecture: Professor of Law Derek Black**

**Feb. 6: SURN Math Day: Aligned, Engaging, and Meaningful Mathematics Instruction**

**Feb. 7: 2025 Charter Day Ceremony**

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

**Feb. 22: CFGE K-12 Saturday Enrichment Program**

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



William & Mary  
School of Education

**DEADLINE EXTENDED**  
for select programs:

- Teacher Education M.A.Ed.
- Higher Education M.Ed.
- Educational Policy, Planning & Leadership Ph.D.  
and Executive Ed.D.

**APPLY BY MARCH 1**

**QUESTIONS?**  
Visit <https://go.wm.edu/pjLVVt> or contact [graded@wm.edu](mailto:graded@wm.edu)

**SHARE A STORY**  
Let us know what you're up to!

**MAKE A GIFT**  
Support the School of Education



William & Mary  
School of Education

---

---