

May 2025 :: U.S. News & World Report Rankings :: Inclusive Excellence Champions :: Alumni & Staff
Spotlight :: Commencement :: Upcoming Events



W&M School of Education advances to top 50 in national rankings

In the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings of best graduate schools released in April, the William & Mary School of Education advanced to the top 50 in the nation, jumping nearly 10 spots from the previous year to 49th. Earlier this year, U.S. News also ranked the school 33rd for best online master's in education programs for veterans.

“Our faculty and students are driving innovation through impactful scholarship, community partnerships and a deep commitment to providing equitable access to education,” said W&M School of Education Dean Robert C. Knoepfel. “This ranking is a clear testament to the success of our faculty in delivering programs that serve the Commonwealth and producing research and scholarship of consequence that improves outcomes for children, families and communities.” **More.**

FROM THE DEAN



May is a season of celebration at William & Mary, and nowhere is that more meaningful than here in the School of Education. As the final classes wrap up and the Wren bell echoes across campus, our own bell rings proudly and often—each chime marking the successful defense of a dissertation and the culmination of years of dedication, perseverance and scholarship.

This weekend, we have the privilege of honoring the Class of 2025: 278 outstanding graduates, including 35 newly minted doctoral scholars. Each of them leaves with deep knowledge, a passion for service and a readiness to shape the future of education and the lives of those they serve.

We could not be more proud of their accomplishments. As they step forward into new roles and responsibilities, they carry with them the mission and spirit of William & Mary.

— Dean Rob Knoeppel

NEWS & NOTES



School of Education Inclusive Excellence Champions 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Inclusive Excellence Champions included many School of Education faculty, staff, students and alumni (pictured above). President Rowe and Provost Agouris shared in the celebration on April 17 along with the nominators and supervisors of this year's recipients. Each honoree exemplified one of the five dimensions of inclusive excellence: access & success; education & scholarship; community & partnership; climate & intergroup relations; and, infrastructure & investment. **More.**



Travis Burns '04, Ed.D. '12, named 2025 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia

Selected by the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals, Burns will be recognized at state and national conferences this summer.

Burns credits his W&M Educational Policy, Planning & Leadership (EPPL) professors Michael DiPaola '69, Megan Tschannen-Moran, Christopher Gareis M.A.Ed. '92, Ed.S. '93, Ed.D. '96, P '22, P '25, P '27, James Stronge P '02 and Steven Staples '76, M.Ed. '83 for doing a fantastic job preparing him for the challenges of principalship. [More.](#)



T/TAC Project Assistant Grace Mackert featured in recent video

The **VCU Center on Transition Innovations** provides resources and innovative models to support students with disabilities in their transition to adulthood. Mackert was interviewed for a video on employment success strategies, and her colleagues at the W&M Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) attest to her strong growth mindset.

“Grace has presented to School of Education students in introductory classes for the past three semesters about inclusive education. She’s a terrific colleague,” said Director of Field and Clinical Experiences, April Lawrence. [More.](#)



American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2025 Annual Meeting

More than 40 faculty, students and alumni from the W&M School of Education showcased their impactful scholarship at the 2025 AERA Annual Meeting in Denver. This year’s theme was “Research, Remedy, and Repair: Toward Just Education Renewal.” School of Education presentations addressed topics such as equity in classroom assessment, leadership and well-being, inclusive practices for multilingual and marginalized learners, and the ethical use of AI in education. From roundtables to invited talks, their expertise reflects a deep commitment to educational research that fosters community, justice and innovation across diverse learning environments.

Commencement 2025

W&M Commencement will take place May 15-17, 2025. The main university ceremony will be held Friday, May 16, at 6 p.m. in Zable Stadium. On the same day at 3 p.m., the School of Education celebrates our doctoral students with a Doctoral Cording Ceremony. The School of Education Graduation Celebration will take place in a new location this year. It will be held in Kaplan Arena, on Saturday, May 17, at 12:30 p.m. **More.**



W&M Commencement
Weekend



School of Education
Doctoral Cording Ceremony



School of Education
Graduation Celebration

May 26: Memorial Day William & Mary Offices closed

May 27: Curriculum & Instruction New Student Orientation

June 16-17: SURN's 27th Annual Leadership Conference

June 23-27: Eastern Virginia Writing Project Youth Writing Camp

June 26-July 9: CFGE: The Optimist Project

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