



WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

BUILDING BRIDGES: LEADING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS TO UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Natasha McFarland & Cheryl Dickter

CRUCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT ME (NATASHA)

- Undergrad, attended a HBCU and majored in Business Education. The idea of undergraduate research was never a thought, or I don't recall any mention of it.
- Once I was introduced to WMSURE, I understood the benefits of undergraduate research and made the decision to use the skills I had as a librarian to assist students in realizing their dreams.



CRUCIAL INFORMATION ABOUT ME (CHERYL)

- My undergraduate advisor singled me out and encouraged me to do research and think about graduate school which I never would have without her.
- Now I'm paying it forward to our scholars who may not be aware of undergraduate research opportunities and may not have considered grad school.



WHAT WE KNOW....

W&M: GREAT & PUBLIC

- *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* published a report on selective colleges and universities with the smallest gap between white and black students' graduation rates, and William & Mary was shown to have **the smallest gap of all public institutions on the list.**
- According to the report, there was a 9% difference between white and black students' graduation rates at William & Mary in 2013.

Results for all colleges: <http://www.collegeresults.org/>

W&M: THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIDGE THE GAP

- W&M is a PWI with a centuries-long history of reliance on slavery and the mistreatment of African American employees and students (Meyers, 2008).
- 30% of William and Mary undergraduates are students of color
- 8% are first generation college students
- Students who are underrepresented at William & Mary are particularly underrepresented in research

WMSURE

The William & Mary Scholars Undergraduate Research Experience



2012



created by faculty to support undergraduate research among the William and Mary Scholars and other interested students.

CREATING WMSURE: UNDERSTANDING OUR POPULATION

- To help design the WMSURE program, we collected data from our target population to assess their needs
 - N = 62 (70.6% female), 74.2% in-state
 - 66.6% were students of color



CREATING WMSURE:

- Although students indicated that they were interested in doing research:
 - they did not know much about research experiences on campus
 - they did not feel that the diversity of students doing research mirrored the diversity of the campus

CREATING WMSURE:

- They reported feeling solo status and stereotype threat.
- 64.5% of students indicated that they felt supported on campus.



W&M SCHOLARS AWARD

- The W&M Scholars Award is presented each year to academically distinguished students who are members of underrepresented groups who would contribute to campus diversity.
- Awards provide in-state tuition and fees and are renewable each year as long as the recipient remains in good academic standing at the College.
- WMSURE provides formalized mentoring, programming, and increased research opportunities



WHY FOCUS ON **RESEARCH**?

- Undergraduate research is a critical factor in addressing the academic pipeline issues.
- Research is how students best learn
- Research is one of the best high impact practices available at colleges (CUR)

FACULTY AND STAFF MENTORS

- We selected faculty who have a record of conducting quality research and supporting undergraduates to become mentors.
- There are over 50 faculty mentors from across campus representing all schools and departments.



WILLIAM & MARY

LIBRARIES

Connecting
Diversity and Educational
Excellence



E. G. SWEM LIBRARY

"THE HUB"



WILLIAM & MARY

LIBRARIES

Providing

- Meeting Place
- Designated Library Liaison
- Programs
- Establishing Partnerships
- Collection Development



Opportunities to learn more about the field of librarianship

Designated Library Space

- Ford Classroom



Designated Library Liaison

WMSURE CURRICULUM

- First year seminar - Underrepresented Scholars in the Academy
- Sessions in the library and throughout semester on using the library for research and writing



WILLIAM & MARY

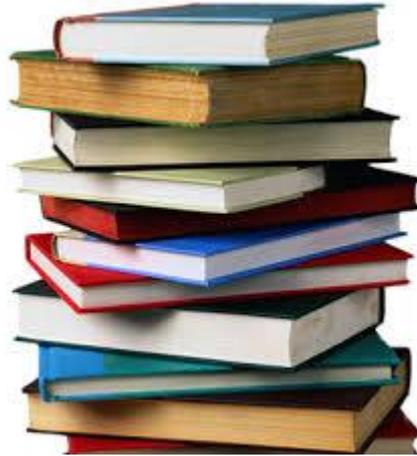
LIBRARIES



Mosaic Program



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT



WILLIAM & MARY

LIBRARIES

PARTNERSHIPS



events

Kwame Alexander visits W&M

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the *New York Times* Bestselling author of 24 books, including *The Crossover*, which received the **2015 John Newbery Medal** for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American literature for Children, the **Coretta Scott King Author Award Honor**, the **NCTE Charlotte Huck Honor**, the **Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award**, and the **Paterson Poetry Prize**.



Kwame writes for children of all ages. Some of his other works include picture books, *Animal Ark*, *Out of Wonder* and *Surf's Up*, and novels *Booked*, *He Said She Said*, and the forthcoming *Solo*.

Born in New York City, Kwame moved to Chesapeake, VA as a child. He graduated from Great Bridge High School in 1985. He attended Virginia Tech, and now lives in Northern Virginia.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Kwame will visit W&M on **Friday, October 6, 2017**.

- **WMSURE Lunch with Kwame**
 - 12-1:30PM, Swem Library Ford Classroom
 - Open to WMSURE scholars only
- **Student Writing Workshop**
 - 2-3:30PM, Swem Library Ford Classroom
 - Open to W&M students, any major
 - Limited spots, register today!
 - RSVP: <http://forms.wm.edu/33816>
- **"The Crossover" Talk and Book Signing**
 - 7-9PM, Williamsburg Regional Library
 - Open to the public
 - W&M Bookstore will have books for sale at event
 - Sponsored by William & Mary Libraries, Williamsburg Regional Library and Williamsburg Area Reading Council
 - RSVP: <http://forms.wm.edu/33814>

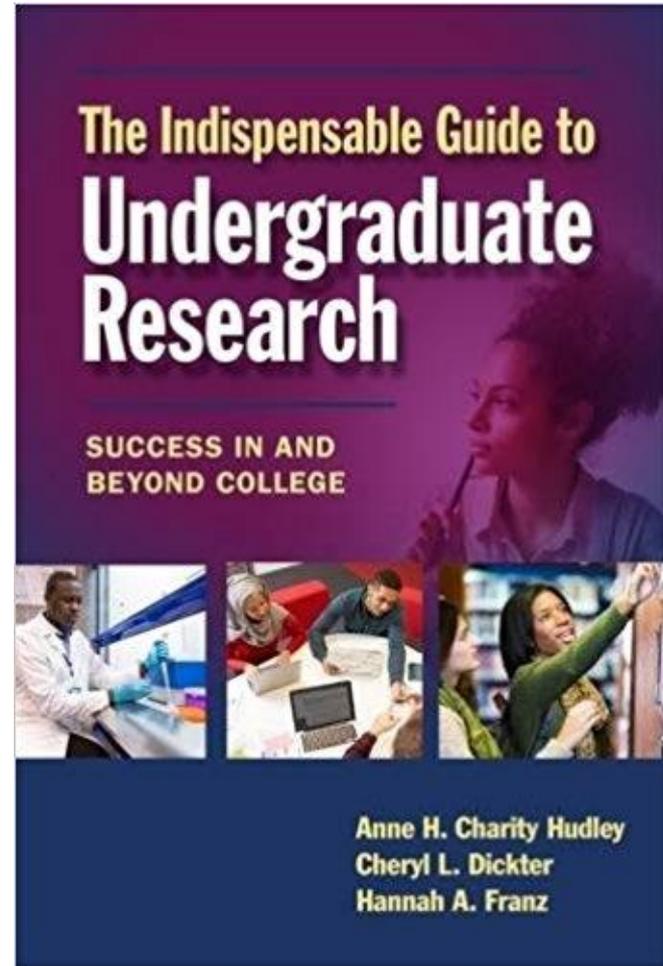
PARTNERSHIPS ALLOW US TO:

- Introduce students to faculty and staff that have similar backgrounds; demonstrating how they can realize their goals.
- Share paths taken and offer guidance to plot educational journeys.
- Place emphasis on being comfortable with self and goals.
- Learn more about the needs of students and of researchers through informal conversations.



CREATING A TOOL FOR UNDERGRADUATES

- Prepares students for undergraduate research in college.
- The book is designed to appeal to all first and second year college students, with a specific focus on the experiences of students who are underrepresented in the academy.
- Provides students with detailed research-based tools that will prepare them for the social and academic transition from high school classes to college research.



IMPACT OF WMSURE

Compared to a similar sample of non-WMSURE students, WMSURE students:

- feel significantly more supported by faculty
- are more likely to have a faculty mentor on campus
- feel more informed about research
- report being more interested in conducting research



“WMSURE is my peace, it is my support,
and it is the only place where I am not just a
minority.”

-Jayqua Williams



“As a first-year student at the College of William and Mary, WMSURE is the family that I never knew I needed; but now that I have experienced it, I could not imagine my life without it. It provided me with bounds of knowledge that I never knew to ask about. WMSURE is a support system that I can always count on throughout my college career.”

-Danielle Brown

THANK YOU!

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www.wm.edu/wmsure



Questions and/or Comments



EVALUATE THIS SESSION



tinyurl.com/fri2017vla



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sandra R. Gregerman and Jennifer S. Lerner and William von Hippel and John Jonides et. al. "Undergraduate Student-Faculty Research Partnerships Affect Student Retention." *The Review of Higher Education* 22, no. 1 (1998): 55-72. <https://muse.jhu.edu/> (accessed October 2, 2017).