BUILDING BRIDGES: LEADING UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS TO UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

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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.
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 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
created by faculty to support undergraduate research among the William and Mary Scholars and other interested students.
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.
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.
Connecting Diversity and Educational Excellence
E. G. SWEM LIBRARY

"THE HUB"
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
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
Mosaic Program
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

William & Mary
PARTNERSHIPS

Kwame Alexander visits W&M

Kwame Alexander is a poet, educator, and the New York Times Bestselling author of 26 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 If You're Up; and novels brokered, We Had the War, and the forthcoming 2020.

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.

- WAMSURE Lunch with Kwame
  - 12-1:00PM, Swem Library Ford Classroom
  - Open to WAMSURE scholars only

- Student Writing Workshop
  - 2-5 30PM, Swem Library Ford Classroom
  - Open to W&M Students, any major
  - Limited spots, register today!
  - RSVP: http://forms.wm.edu/93016

- "The Crossover" Talk and Book Signing
  - 7-9PM, Williamsburg Regional Library
  - Open to the public
  - W&M Blossoms 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/93014

William & Mary Libraries
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