

James Farmer Multicultural Center

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 2 | November 2021

Farmer Fellows: *Incredible Impact*



Farmer Fellows Breezy & Lu facilitate a Diversity Session during New Student Arrival

In March 2021, the Diversity Peer Educators/Farmer Fellows program was officially launched. It began with in-depth, intensive training on subject matters relating to diversity, inclusion, equity and social justice for 10 student leaders who would assume the roles of Farmer Fellows beginning with the Fall 2021 semester. This training lasted through the rest of the spring semester and the summer. Topics covered included, Big 8 identities, intersectionality, microaggressions, implicit Bias, inclusion, privilege, presentation tips, among others.

We are pleased to share that these Farmer Fellows have been

conducting diversity education sessions to their peer groups since the beginning of August. To date, they have facilitated over 26 diversity sessions to a wide variety of student groups to include resident assistants, peer consultants, and the incoming new student cohort. Evaluations thus far indicated the incredible impact they are having in advancing the education and awareness of diversity, equity, and inclusion to their peers. Some of the comments from the sessions include, "It was a great presentation," "It was really well done," "I'm so happy this was available to us," and "Great energy and engagement, I appreciated the understanding and care they had throughout the presentation & they worked well together!"

The Farmer Fellows are doing an amazing job in their outreach and influence to the student body. There are more diversity workshops scheduled in the spring semester. We are excited about this program and the students who are contributing to the institution's goal of inclusive excellence by serving as ambassadors and advocates of diversity, equity and social justice.



Farmer Fellows stand beside the bust of Dr. James Farmer on Campus Walk.



Upcoming Events

Wed., Jan. 19 | 7 p.m.
Chandler Ballroom,
University Center

2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote
Speaker: **Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook**

Tues., Feb. 9 | 7 pm
Chandler Ballroom C,
University Center

2022 Black History Month Keynote
Program: **Dr. Marceline Catlett**

Sat., Feb. 19 | 7 pm
Dodd Auditorium,
George Washington Hall

Annual Step Show & Competition

Wed., March 9 | 7 pm
Chandler C Ballroom,
University Center

2022 Women's History Month Keynote
Speaker: **Marguerite Bennett ('10)**

Thurs., April 7 | 7 p.m.
Chandler Ballroom C,
University Center

Islamic Cultural Banquet Keynote
Speaker: **Jordan Denari Duffner**

Saturday, April 9
10 am-5 pm
Fredericksburg Campus

32nd Annual Multicultural Fair

Tues., April 19 | 6 p.m.
Chandler Ballroom C,
University Center

Passover Seder

For information about upcoming events and programs at the James Farmer Multicultural Center, visit our website at students.umw.edu/multicultural or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. & Black History Month Celebrations

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook

**Wednesday, January 19 | 7 p.m.
Chandler Ballroom, University Center**



Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor concentration in Religious Studies and a Master's of Divinity. She also earned a Master's in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, and a

Doctorate of Ministry degree as a Gardner C. Taylor fellow at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. LaKeisha was licensed into the gospel ministry at the Antioch Baptist Church; has served as the Youth Minister at Mount Hope Baptist Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Dr. Cook has over 20 years of experience working in non-profits, education, and the African American church. As a pastor and preacher, she uses her platform to educate and empower people on social justice and racial inequities, and she is passionate about justice reform.

She served as a program administrator for the Kyrene School District in Tempe, AZ, where she coordinated, implemented, and ensured the quality of intervention and prevention programs and activities outlined in the eight-million-dollar Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant. She also served as the Criminal Justice Reform Organizer for VICPP and led a successful campaign that abolished the death penalty in Virginia. She is currently working as an Equity Transformation Specialist for Pacific Educational Group, Inc.

Black History Month Keynote Program: Dr. Marceline Catlett

**Tuesday, February 9 | 7 pm
Chandler Ballroom C, University Center**



Dr. Marceline Catlett is the 25th Division Superintendent of Fredericksburg City Public Schools and a Fredericksburg native. She attended Virginia State University where she graduated Magna Cum Laude earning a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She went on to earn a Master of Education Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Virginia. After earning Postgraduate Certificates from VCU, Oxford University, Harvard University, and Howard University, Dr. Catlett earned a Doctorate Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Dr. Catlett has 39 years of employment experience in FCPS. Her career with Fredericksburg City Public Schools began in 1981 at Walker-Grant Middle School where she worked as a sixth-grade teacher. She moved into school administration in 1990 serving as the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction and Personnel, and Deputy Superintendent.

She has been recognized for her notable achievements in education, leadership, and community service. Awards include the 2018 Hugh Mercer Elementary School African American Community Award, the Women Education Leaders in Virginia 2017 Spirit Award, the 2017 UMW Patricia Lacey Metzger Distinguished Achievement Award the 2015 Excel Award in Education women in Worship Ministries, the 2011 Fredericksburg Regional Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Washington Area Outstanding Service to Youth Award.

Join us for the 2021 Kwanzaa Celebration

Wednesday, December 1 | 6 p.m. | Chandler Ballroom, UC



As a means of unifying the African and African-American communities, Dr. Maulana Karenga established Kwanzaa, a non-religious holiday celebrating and honoring African culture and heritage throughout the world. A seven-day celebration, Kwanzaa features candle lighting, pouring of libations, and the culminating feast and gift giving. Join this year's Kwanzaa celebration hosted by the Black Student Association and featuring members across all organizations in the Multicultural Leadership Council.