

# JAMES FARMER MULTICULTURAL CENTER

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

## VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1 | August 2023



## 2023-2024 Cultural Awareness Series

Cross-Cultural BBQ	Thursday, August 31   4 pm Ball Circle, UMW Fredericksburg Campus
Latino Identities Month Major Speaker: Dr. Rachel Gomez	Thursday, September 21   7 pm Chandler A/B, Cedric Rucker University Center
Disability Awareness Month Major Speaker: Dr. David T. Mitchell	Thursday, October 12   6:30 pm Chandler A/B, Cedric Rucker University Center
GSMA Celebration Major Speaker: Dr. Siobhan Cooke	Wednesday, October 25   7 pm Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center
Asian Cultural Celebration Major Performance: The Washington Mom Dance Group	Sunday, October 29   7 pm Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall
Taste of Asia	Saturday, November 4   4 pm Chandler Ballroom, CRUC
Native American Cultural Major Speaker: Victoria Ferguson	Thursday, November 9   7:00 pm Chandler C, Cedric Rucker University Center
Jewish Cultural Celebration Major Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Shanks Alexander	Wednesday, November 15   7 pm Chandler A/B, Cedric Rucker University Center
Kwanzaa Celebration	Wednesday, December 6   6 pm Chandler Ballroom, CRUC
The University of Mary Washington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Speaker: Tylik M. McMillan	Wednesday, January 24   7 pm Chandler C, Cedric Rucker University Center
Black History Month Major Speakers: Junior Marvin, Manny Kellough, and Bill McGee	Wednesday, February 7   7 pm Chandler C, Cedric Rucker University Center
Step Show Competition	Saturday, February 24   7 pm Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall
Great Lives Lecture and Women's History Speaker: Billie Jean King by biographer Johnette Howard	Thursday, March 14   7:30 pm Dodd Auditorium, George Washington Hall
Islamic Cultural Celebration Banquet	Thursday, April 4   7 pm Chandler Ballroom, CRUC
34th Annual Multicultural Fair	Saturday, April 13   10 am - 5 pm UMW Fredericksburg Campus
Passover Seder	Wednesday, April 24   5 pm Chandler C, Cedric Rucker University Center

## JFMC Milestones

This year marks two special anniversaries for the James Farmer Multicultural Center – the 30th anniversary of the Cultural Awareness Series programming, and the 25th anniversary of the renaming of the Center to the James Farmer Multicultural Center.

The Cultural Awareness Series began in 1993 and consisted of four cultural celebrations. They included Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian Cultural Celebration, MLK, Jr. Celebration, and Black History Month. Since then, we have expanded to 13 cultural celebrations throughout the year. The Series brings the campus and members of the local community together to embrace the many ethnicities, identities, heritages, and customs that make our community so rich and vibrant.

Now known as the James Farmer Multicultural Center, we are honored to uplift the legacy and life of Dr. Farmer through our diversity, social justice, and leadership programs and events. We strive to increase awareness of his many contributions to society, as well as empower others to be positive agents of social change.

We are excited about both of these milestones and look forward to the wonderful programs and activities that will take place this year.

For information about upcoming events and programs at the JFMC, visit our website at [students.umw.edu/multicultural](https://students.umw.edu/multicultural) or follow us on social media!



## 2023-2024 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership

# Adrianna Giddings

Adrianna Giddings is a senior majoring in Communications and minoring in Digital Studies and Social Justice. Originally from Newport News, Virginia, she currently resides in Suffolk and plans to serve and advocate for persons with disabilities after completing her undergraduate and graduate degrees. Adrianna's passion for serving persons with disabilities stems in part from her own lived experiences as a person with multiple disabilities.

Throughout her time at Mary Washington, Adrianna has been involved with many multicultural and social justice clubs and events. She currently serves as president of the Zeta Mu chapter of Delta Alpha Pi, an international honor society for persons with disabilities, leader of the UMW Praise Dance club, and was former vice president of DiversAbility. In addition to these roles, Adrianna has also served on campus-wide committees, such as the Disability Awareness Month planning committee where she has served as an integral part of the planning and execution of this celebration for three years.

Her position in these roles grants Adrianna the opportunity to engage and educate the campus and community about disability culture, as well as inspire individuals to be bold and fearless in their expression of who they are. Adrianna has also participated in several other multicultural events/ experiences at the university, such as volunteering at the MLK Day of Service activities, participating in the Social Justice and Leadership Summit, in addition to performing at multiple Gospelfest events and Kwanzaa celebrations.

Adrianna's other roles include working as an assistive technology student aide in the Office of Disability Resources. In this position, she works with incoming first year and transfer students to provide mentorship, as well as technological training, on various applications and devices using accessibility features. In addition to working with students, Adrianna also works as an accessibility liaison checking the accessibility of various materials from different departments and offices across campus. She has worked in these roles for almost 3 years. Adrianna's passion for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility is evident and present in all that she does. She plans to continue to advocate and educate the campus and community about these and other topics related to multiculturalism and diversity as the recipient of the 2023- 2024 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership. Adrianna plans to accomplish this during her final year by drawing attention for the need for campus-wide accessibility, as well as being a voice of the students.



Dr. Gómez studies the influence of race and ethnicity in urban education and youth development. Her work investigates the significance of critical pedagogies on the critical consciousness and sociopolitical development of adolescents, with particular focus on identity, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender and culture on educational experiences.

Latino Identities Month Major Speaker:

**Dr. Rachel F. Gomez**



**Thursday, September 21**

**7 pm | Chandler A/B**

**Cedric Rucker University Center**