

Jonathan Alger

Jonathan Alger is the sixth president of James Madison University (JMU), taking office on July 1, 2012. Under his leadership, JMU has developed a new vision to be “the national model of the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world,” and a strategic plan focused on engaged learning, community engagement, and civic engagement.

President Alger’s higher education service has included positions at Rutgers University (as Senior Vice President and General Counsel), the University of Michigan, the American Association of University Professors, and the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. At Rutgers, he developed a comprehensive compliance program and served as the university’s first chief compliance officer in addition to his other duties. At the University of Michigan, he helped coordinate the defense in two landmark Supreme Court cases regarding diversity in admissions, and has provided leadership for many initiatives related to access and inclusion. He began his legal career in the Labor and Employment Section of the international law firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius.

President Alger currently serves on the national Campus Compact Board of Directors (focused on community and civic engagement); the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Council of State Representatives; and the Council of Presidents for the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. He was previously board chair for the National Association of College and University Attorneys, which recognized him with Life Membership and the Distinguished Service Award. His past national leadership roles have included service on the NCAA Division I Board of Directors; the Advisory Council for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; and the American Bar Association’s Accreditation Committee.

A nationally recognized scholar on higher education policy and law, President Alger has given presentations at many conferences and campuses across the U.S. and abroad, and has published extensively in legal and higher education journals and periodicals. He is a member of the editorial board of *The Journal of College and University Law*, and has been a contributing editor to the treatise, *The Law of Higher Education*. He co-teaches a leadership seminar in the JMU Honors College and has previously taught courses in law, higher education and public policy at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

President Alger graduated with High Honors and Phi Beta Kappa from Swarthmore College as a political science major, and with Honors from Harvard Law School.