



## Oris Griffin



In the 21st Century, it takes more than a village to raise a child. As a modern community, we must all play a part.

— Oris Griffin

professor of Human Resource Development

### **What is the best part of being a Professor-In-Residence?**

I really enjoy working with students and helping them realize that their dreams can come true. Also, building communities and bridges between JMU and the inner city high school is extremely rewarding.

### **How has your work with the PIR Program made a specific difference in the life of a student at your partner high school?**

I think we as a society sometimes forget to instill in our students the importance of giving back, both in terms of their talents and financial resources. One freshman student that I know has pledged to sponsor a student for a 3-credit course.

### **How could we make the PIR Program more effective for future students?**

We can continue to engage students at their schools in the variety of ways we already do, while likewise implementing new strategies that expose them directly to university life

to motivate and inform them by example. We can also seek to reach out to middle school and grade school students.

### **What is a typical day at your partner high school and describe your role there?**

During my typical day at George Wythe High School, I meet with the senior counselor and talk with students. I also meet with teachers to determine if and how James Madison University might fulfill their needs.

### **How long have you been a PIR?**

This is my third year as a professor-in-residence.

### **What impact do you feel the PIR Program is making on JMU's campus? And why is this important?**

The program has made a tremendous impact on diversity on campus, both in terms of ethnicity, class and socio-economic status. We are helping to provide JMU with a more realistic community for students, faculty and staff.

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