



William O'Meara



"All philosophers agree with Socrates, who said in *The Apology*: 'The unexamined life is not worth living.'"

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

The best part of being a professor-in-residence has been discovering the desire of so many students to better themselves through further education. I hope some day to teach an Introduction to Philosophy class at the high school.

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

A great student, Samantha McDuffy, worked hard at a number of jobs during high school to support herself even as she participated in extra-curricular activities and earned high grades. I was able to help her win a Centennial Scholarship here at James Madison University.

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

We need to convince students that the future of the 21st Century will best reward those who develop their knowledge skills to the highest level. The days when people could earn a good income throughout their whole life, based only on their high school education, have long passed.

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

My day usually involves meeting with senior students, helping them make plans for their future. It is especially satisfying to help them plan for community college in a way that will help them transfer into a four year college with good preparation in their basic courses in their intended major. My role is being a guidance consultant.

How long have you been a PIR?

I have been a professor-in-residence for the past three years.

What impact do you feel the program is making on JMU's campus and why is this important?

Our outreach effort is helping to make our campus more attractive to the many diverse students throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. We are helping to prepare many people to return to their communities as future leaders.