



Steve Rollman



Almost anyone can and should continue their education after high school.

— Steve Rollman
professor of communication studies

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

My friends at Wakefield High School (faculty, staff and students) have made me feel welcome and appreciated.

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

I frequently speak with seniors who worry that their life choices are limited because they were not serious students in 10th and 11th grade. I encourage them to attend a community college for a couple of years, work hard and do well, and then transfer to a place like JMU.

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

We could expand the program so that we're working with more than just five Virginia high schools.

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

I spend much of my time talking with Wakefield High School students trying to help them make wise college decisions. This includes asking students good questions to help them consider the most important cri-

teria for their decisions. I also address classes and student organizations to speak with them about college or about communication (my own academic area). I speak with counselors and teachers to assist them in helping their students.

Plus, I organize special professor-in-residence events at Wakefield. These have included making arrangements for the school's counselors to meet with JMU's admissions committee, having a speaker address the high school's faculty regarding how to write a good letter of recommendation, bringing a busload of Wakefield students to JMU and arranging several financial aid workshops for parents and students.

How long have you been a PIR?

I've been with the program right from the start. 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?

I believe in diversity and JMU will be an even better university with more of it. Classes composed of students from very different backgrounds are always more interesting than classes full of very similar students.