



**A GREAT DAY-LONG CONFERENCE –WITH NO REGISTRATION FEE!**

Dear Colleague:

Although many institutions are faced with travel freezes and potential budget cuts due to the economic climate in the Commonwealth, the members of the Student Success in Virginia conference planning team at James Madison University believe that student success is too important to “freeze.” Subsequently, we will host the conference on Friday, October 10, 2008, **at no charge; we will waive the registration fee for participants** to this program showcasing student success programs from across the commonwealth.

By eliminating some of the amenities including the refreshments and lunch – available for purchase by participants – we can still offer a day-long program with great presenters, innovative programs, an incredible keynote speaker, and a chance for you to engage in productive conversations with your colleagues from across the state. Information on the keynote speaker and the educational sessions appears on the back of this letter.

With professional development experiences restricted by limited resources this year, this conference offers an excellent alternative to discuss strategies, models, and resources relevant to professionals from both Academic Affairs and Student Affairs – *without the usual \$65 registration fee*. If you can get to Harrisonburg and buy your own lunch, you can take part in this annual, statewide gathering of educators.

This year’s theme is *Student Success in Virginia: Principles, Practices, and Programs*.

Principles (*what we believe*) are the foundations and theories on which we base our approaches to working with students; these premises and standards are fundamental in our approaches to helping students achieve academic and personal success.

Practices (*how we function*) are the ways in which our professional training and discipline are applied and performed; through these actions, our skills and competencies are improved and perfected.

Programs (*what we create*) are the activities, services, and resources constructed to address the learning and developmental needs of students (e.g., academic, co-curricular, and ancillary services supporting academic and student life).

*Student Success in Virginia: Principles, Practices, and Programs*, will be inspiring, instructive, and incredible – **and free!** Please forward this letter to anyone whom might be interested in attending. We hope you’ll join us in Harrisonburg October 10<sup>th</sup> for the fall colors and a great day of learning.

Although there is no fee, participants still need to register for the conference so we can accommodate all who plan to attend. For more information or registration for Student Success in Virginia: Principles, Practices, and Programs, please visit our website at:

**<http://www.jmu.edu/stusuccess/ssiv.shtml>**



### **Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Meredith S. Gunter serves as outreach director for the demographics and workforce section of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. Meredith earned her bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio; her master's degree from Indiana University; and her doctorate from the University of Maryland. Additionally, she holds an advanced certificate in gerontology. Dr. Gunter serves as Vice Rector of the Board of Visitors at James Madison University, Co-chair and co-founder of the Patients and Friends Research Fund at the University of Virginia Cancer Center, and as a member of the Board of the Cancer Center. Dr. Gunter's work roles have included: Provost of the New College of Global Studies at Radford University, Assistant to the President at Longwood University, Director of the Graduate Internship program and research assistant at the University of Maryland, and Director of Residence Hall Services at Virginia Commonwealth University. She also served as Special Assistant for Governor Gerald L. Baliles of Virginia and as Director of International Services for the law firm of Hunton and Williams.

### **Educational Sessions**

The Role of Online Learning Communities in Enhancing Student Success. The Catholic Distance University.

Serving an Emerging Population: English Language Learners. James Madison University.

Give Your Peer Educators Some Credit! The University of Virginia.

Understanding Gender Identity and Gender Expression: Recommendations for Creating Inclusive Programs. James Madison University.

From Sage on the Stage to Guide on the Side: Teaching Student Development Courses Effectively. Lord Fairfax Community College.

Living-Learning Community for Pre-professional Health Students. James Madison University.

Take My Hand: Supporting Students From High School Through College. Virginia Tech.

Integrated Academic and Career Planning. James Madison University.

How to Really Teach Effective Time Management Skills. Virginia Tech.

PictureIT JMU, The Second Year. James Madison University.

Success for First-Time, First-Year Probationary Students: Developing Intentional Leaders. Christopher Newport University.

Transitioning Students from College to the Workplace. George Mason University.