

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: [Academic Affairs Faculty and Staff](#)
Subject: Notes from the Provost
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023

10/4/23

Hello colleagues,

As we reach the midpoint of the semester, I'd like to acknowledge your tireless support of your students and each other. While that kind of support is invaluable every term, recent events make it feel especially vital and appreciated right now. Knowing that you sustain each other even - or perhaps especially - in times of strife is one of the most admirable qualities that the JMU community possesses. As you reflect on that kinship, please share in your peers' successes:

- Associate Professor of Justice Studies [Daniel Beers'](#) article, "[Life in Limbo: Temporary Protection for Ukrainians in the US](#)," appeared in a recent [special issue of Forced Migration Review](#), the most widely read journal in the refugee studies field. The piece, describing the evolution of U.S. policy toward Ukrainian refugees since the start of the war in February 2022, critically assesses the impact of the complex and unpredictable policy landscape on refugees and refugee-serving agencies.
- If you missed the recent adaptation of *Cyrano de Bergerac* presented by students from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, you can see the performance on [the School of Music YouTube page](#). School of Music Professor [Ian Zook](#) organized the 18-student performance, in which each work was collaboratively designed and rehearsed, with an emphasis placed on the freedom for each student performer to create their own interpretations to best enhance the music.
- A second group of JMU faculty and staff were honored with a prestigious [Commonwealth Technology Award at the Virginia Innovative Technology Symposium](#) in Richmond mentioned in last week's [edition. Learning Access Through Universal Design \(LAUD\)](#) received the "Best Customer Experience Initiative" award in the Education category. LAUD is a collaboration between CHBS and the JMU Libraries. Spearheaded by [BJ Bryson](#) and [Christie Liu](#), this Canvas-based program blends a self-paced course with seminars for JMU faculty who want to apply fundamental principles of universal design for learning to their teaching to promote a more inclusive and accessible learning environment.

Please keep submitting your accomplishments, comments and inquiries! You can email provost@jmu.edu or submit a question anonymously through the [Ask the Provost](#) option online.

Sincerely,
Heather

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