

From: [Office of the Provost](#)
To: [AA Faculty and Staff](#)
Subject: Notes from the Provost
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Hello colleagues,

Seeing November 2 on my calendar this morning reminded me this is a pivot point in the academic calendar- we're two-thirds of the way through the fall semester, we'll move our clocks back an hour this weekend and Election Day is next week. The Dukes Vote initiative, based in the James Madison Center for Civic Engagement, can keep us on track with that last point of citizen responsibility. In addition to the town halls and other candidate events they've hosted over the past few weeks, these students have created this handy [2023 Election Guide and FAQ](#) to help us stay informed about the electoral process. With robust teaching, research and service portfolios, tracking down ballot or candidate information can be a chore on top of professional obligations, so thank you for availing yourself of these resources and modeling dynamic citizenship for our students. I appreciate your continued, active involvement in the life of the university and Harrisonburg communities. That sense of dynamism is also at work in the examples of faculty and staff success I have to share with you today.

- Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Director of Clinical Education [Michelle Dawson](#) earned Specialist Board Certification in the area of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders from the [American Board of Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders](#) in September. This credential requires years of advanced clinical, educational, and administrative experience beyond initial certification. Candidates are also expected to demonstrate research and mentorship excellence in their field.
- [Adriana Banu](#), Professor of Physics and Scientific Coordinator for the [Madison Accelerator Laboratory](#), was recently awarded a \$436,952 NSF [Major Research Instrumentation](#) (MRI) - Track 2 grant for her project *Development of a Next Generation Fast Neutron Detector*. Track 2 MRI proposals are [collaborative](#) research proposals, and this is the first Track 2 MRI grant proposal submitted by JMU. Her work will contribute to the construction of a \$3.7 million research instrument to be used to study neutron-rich atomic nuclei at and beyond the limit of stability at [FRIB](#), one of the world's leading facilities for rare isotope beams.
- [Joy Myers](#), Director of the [Grow Your Own Campus Teaching Fellows](#) program, and program assistant director [Katie Shifflett](#) recently [co-presented with community college colleagues](#) at the Virginia Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (VACTE) fall conference hosted at the University of Richmond. The meeting's theme was "The Value and Impact of Teacher Education Programs, Structures and Pedagogies," making Myers and Shifflett's presentation, "The Role of Collaboration and an Effective Grow Your Own Teacher Education Program" an ideal fit.

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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