

Notes from the Provost

Office of the Provost <provost@jmu.edu>

Thu 4/13/2023 4:00 PM

To: FAC-AA-RESPONSE-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU <FAC-AA-RESPONSE-L@LISTSERV.JMU.EDU>;'pt-fac-response-l@listserv.jmu.edu' <pt-fac-response-l@listserv.jmu.edu>;'Staff Classified (Staff-Classified-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu)' <Staff-Classified-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu>;'AA-Wage (Staff-Wage-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu)' <Staff-Wage-AA-L@listserv.jmu.edu>

4/13/2023

Hello colleagues,

As we move closer to the end of the semester, faculty activities and awards are not slowing down! Here are some updates on your colleagues' recent achievements.

- Have you heard about this amazing interdisciplinary work? Professor of Computer Science Michael Stewart and Professor of Music and Director of the College of Visual and Performing Arts Office of Creative Propulsion David Stringham, received \$40,725 from the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) (NEA) and the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Benjamin Guerrero, a Preparing the Future Faculty Fellow in JMU's Office of Access and Inclusion, is leading the content development process for [this project](#), which compares three different methods for engaging students using a web-based platform measuring the students' processes of creating, performing and experiencing meaningful personal connections with music.
- Be sure to check out the [JMU Community Seed Library!](#) JMU Libraries faculty member Liz Chenevey, a seed library co-founder, was interviewed for [a WMRA podcast](#) and a [story in The Citizen](#). As a collaborative project with Massanutten Regional Library (MRL), the seed library is available in both Rose Library and the central branch of MRL. Visit either location to find free vegetable, herb, and flower seeds, with an emphasis on heirloom or open-pollinated seeds and plants that are well-suited to the Shenandoah Valley. The Seed Library also strives to provide culturally relevant seed types, recognizing the diverse populations and gardening knowledge of our neighbors across the Valley and their plant traditions.
- Assistant Professor of Political Science Dr. Sombo Muzata recently participated in the second [Summit for Democracy](#), with participants including representatives from the governments of Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Zambia; Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education; Michael Gonzales, U.S. Ambassador to Zambia; and alumni of several U.S. exchange programs. Dr. Muzata stated, "The U.S. supports various education programs in Zambia, and the Embassy selected ten alumni to share experiences in the programs we participated in and discuss the challenges, obstacles and opportunities with the Zambia education system. We also talked about our roles as leaders and how we shall continue to advance changes in education going forward."

Through [Ask the Provost](#), I recently received a question about giving bonuses to staff who receive extraordinary contributor status on their annual evaluations. While there isn't a tie between "extraordinary contributor" status and bonuses, I encourage supervisors in Academic Affairs to recognize the exceptional performance of classified staff and A&P faculty using [the Individual Impact and Customer Service awards](#), in keeping with university and state HR policies. Examples of exceptional performance include providing coverage for vacant positions, working on special projects that fall outside of your normal duties or improving departmental operations in a way that leads to cost savings for the university. You can find more information through the [Human Resources website](#), including the [Employee Recognition Form](#).

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

Sincerely,
Heather

Heather J. Coltman, D.M.A.
Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
James Madison University
(540) 568-3429
<https://www.facebook.com/provost4jmu/>
She/Her/Hers