



African, African American, & Diaspora Studies Center

## OPENING CEREMONY

March 23, 2021, 2-3pm

#aadstudiescenter

---

### **AKWAABA! KARIBU! WELCOME!**

Besi Muhonja, Director of the AAAD Studies Center

### **OPENING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Jon Alger, President of James Madison University

### **OVERVIEW OF THE AAAD STUDIES CENTER**

Sofia Samatar, Center Internal Advisory Board Member and Assistant Professor of English & AAAD Studies

### **"ODE TO MY FLAWED RESISTANCE" (POEM)**

Lauren K. Alleyne, Assistant Director of the Furious Flower Poetry Center and Associate Professor of English & AAAD Studies

### **REMARKS & OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CENTER**

Heather Coltman, Vice Provost and Senior VP, Academic Affairs

### **"WHY IS AAAD STUDIES IMPORTANT?"**

AAAD Faculty, Students, and Board Members

### **"AIMASIKO" BY SIMI (NIGERIAN HIGHLIFE SONG)**

Miracle Ogbor, DMA Candidate in the JMU School of Music

### **ON HISTORY, DIVERSITY, ACCESS & INCLUSION**

David Owusu-Ansah, Associate Provost for Diversity, Executive Director, Faculty Access and Inclusion, Professor of History & AAAD

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

The Honorable Deanna R. Reed, Mayor of Harrisonburg

### **"HOW HAS AAAD STUDIES IMPACTED ME?"**

AAAD Faculty, Students, and Board Members

### **"COPLA DE LA O," "COPLA DE LA LUNA," "COPLA DE LA MUERTE" (AFRO-LATIN FOLK SONGS)**

Camila Maric, DMA Candidate in the JMU School of Music

### **REMARKS FROM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS**

Robert Aguirre, Dean College of Arts and Letters

### **"WHAT WILL BE THE FUTURE IMPACT OF THE NEW AAAD STUDIES CENTER?"**

AAAD Faculty, Students, and Board Members

### **"LIFT EVERY VOICE" (BLACK NATIONAL ANTHEM)**

Michael Richardson & Hayley Zavada Coughlin, JMU School of Music

### **MESSAGE OF THANKS**

Mollie Godfrey, Director of the AAAD Studies Center, and Associate Professor of English and AAAD Studies

### **TO UBUNTU!**

Norman Jones III, Student Representative to the JMU Board of Visitors, and AAAD Studies student

---

PLEASE SUPPORT US THIS GIVING DAY

<https://tinyurl.com/SupportAAAD>