



## JMU's R2 Research Academic Institute and Center Plan

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### Introduction

Over the past two decades, James Madison University has been consistently improving, establishing a steady trajectory to attain national status. Last February, one of the most significant achievements in the university's history occurred when Carnegie reclassified JMU as an R2 institution – a “Doctoral university with high research activity.”<sup>1</sup> JMU remains distinctive in its emphasis on strong mentoring and high-quality teaching at all levels by providing students with rich opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences and participation in scholarly activities.

JMU's initial years as an R2 are pivotal for the future. Now is the time to consider how we can solidify this R2 status and continue to bolster, grow and expand our research opportunities for faculty and students.

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### The Goal

The big challenges and difficult problems of today benefit from innovative collaboration across disciplinary boundaries, which is a recognized strength of JMU faculty and students. Innovation and change-making responsiveness to local and global challenges and opportunities from inter- and multi-disciplinary perspectives are essential components of effective higher education and research impact.

To realize this responsibility of the academy and of research, scholarship and innovation offices, JMU research centers should convene scholars, researchers and communities in collectives to examine and address 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Research centers should leverage the breadth and complementariness of intellectual capacity, experience and expertise; research instrumentation and infrastructure; and the diversity of human and physical communities and environments at a university. Achieving this status is the motivation and goal of the JMU R2 Research AIC plan (Research AIC Plan).

R2 status offers new opportunities for incentivizing and enhancing collaborative research networks throughout campus. This Research AIC Plan will incentivize the establishment of self-sustaining centers of research excellence that enhance JMU's national and global reputation while increasing research production and expenditures. The goal of this plan is, by 2029, to have six fully functional, self-sustaining, high-research AICs at JMU. The centers will be incubated within the Office of Research and Scholarship and transferred for future operations to different colleges as they mature.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/classification\\_descriptions/basic.php](https://carnegieclassifications.acenet.edu/classification_descriptions/basic.php)



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## Implementing the Plan

### Overview

JMU will invest \$2M of indirect cost recovery (approximately \$225,000 per year) over a nine-year period to develop three new research centers (RC) and amplify three active research centers through a competitive proposal process. New RCs will initially be housed within the Office of Research and Scholarship (R&S) during the incubation process, with potential for rehoming to colleges within 3-5 years. Existing RCs will remain housed in their current colleges with agreed upon accountabilities to R&S attached to the funding.

#### Goal 1: Create three new Research Centers by AY 2028-29

- Consider proposals during AY 22-23, AY 25-26 and AY28-29
- Accept three-year proposals with a \$450,000 maximum
- Cost-sharing with departments and/or colleges is encouraged and preferred

#### Goal 2: Bolster three current AICs (research active and interdisciplinary)

- Consider proposals during AY 22-23, AY 25-26 and AY28-29
- Accept three-year proposals with a \$225,000 maximum
- Cost-sharing with departments and/or colleges is encouraged and preferred

### Application and Criteria

All RC proposals must articulate:

- A Research Center name
- An initial three-year growth and development plan that includes
  - Coordination and promotion of research interests and agenda
  - Proposed funding sources
  - Required and anticipated administrative support, including but not limited to personnel, space, and research resources and infrastructure (journals, databases, materials, equipment)
  - A list of collaborators and partners, including support letters from respective AUH(s) and dean(s)
  - A detailed budget and budget justification
- Individuals/researchers considered field or subject authorities in the defined area of RC interest and inquiry
- Anticipated contributions to a discipline or across multiple disciplines
- Anticipated contributions or responses to institutional, regional, national and/or global challenges and/or opportunities
- Anticipated contributions to the JMU community and JMU strategic priorities and/or the Academic Affairs Strategic Plan
- Connections to non-traditional revenue sources

### Extra Criteria for Existing AICs

- Existing AICs are expected to demonstrate an active research agenda including significant generated research activity.

- Existing AICs that do not currently meet criteria for being RCs may combine and collaborate to make a case for their potential to become a RC meeting these revised criteria.

***Review Process***

Research Center proposals are to be submitted by the proposer via an online form (available at: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/jtkPW81kyJ>) on or before 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2023.

Please contact Anthony Tongen ([tongen@jmu.edu](mailto:tongen@jmu.edu)) and Keith Holland ([hollansk@jmu.edu](mailto:hollansk@jmu.edu)) with any questions.