



2016 Provost Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship

Dr. Kenn Barron
Department of Psychology

Kenn Barron is a Professor of Psychology at James Madison University and co-coordinator of the Motivation Research Institute. He received his PhD in social/personality psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1999, and began working at JMU in 2000. His research focuses on motivation and achievement in academic, sport, and work settings, and has appeared in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, the *Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, the *Journal of Applied Sport Psychology*, and the *Educational Psychologist*. He also regularly publishes and presents on topics related to the *Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)* and research methodology.

Kenn received his college's Outstanding Junior Faculty Award in 2004, and he has been nominated multiple times for his college's Distinguished Teacher and Distinguished Researcher Awards. He also received the Provost's Award for Freshmen Advising in 2007, the National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding Faculty Award in 2008, and JMU's All Together One Award in 2009. In 2012, he was named a fellow of the American Psychological Association, and he was named one of Princeton Review's Top 300 professors in America.

Kenn regularly teaches coursework in research methods, statistics, motivation, and social psychology. In addition, he puts his knowledge of motivation into practice by coordinating JMU's Psychology Learning Community (PLC). The PLC is an integrated academic-residential program for first year students. Students take part in a unique introduction to the field of Psychology and jump start to the major through a series of curricular and co-curricular experiences designed specifically for them, while living together in the same freshmen residence hall.