

Dr. Tim Thomas

Associate Professor: Educational Foundations and Exceptionalities

Research Interest

- Teachers' instructional choices that enable learners to develop attachment to the places in which they live, work, & play;
- Methods that enhance learners' connections to their local civic, cultural, and environmental locations;
- Effects of school gardens in student learning.

Research Questions and Projects

- How does teachers' technology use for elementary literacy instruction affect their STEM learning?
- What is the effect of a student's short-term field trip for environmental education on the student's place attachment?

Recent Publications

- Bodle, A. & Thomas, T. (Accepted). Co-planning and recruiting for reciprocal university and community engagement in pre-service teacher education: Breaking bread, breaking the bubble. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.
- Thomas, T. G. (2020). Place-based inquiry in a university course abroad: Lessons about education for sustainability in the urban outdoors. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 21(5), 895-910. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSHE-07-2019-0220>
- Thomas, T.G. (2023). Infusing design thinking into teacher preparation: Connecting learners and stakeholders through classroom-based discussions about local sustainability concerns. In W. F. Filho, A. L. Salvia, E. Pallant, B. Choate, & K. Pearce (Eds.). *Educating the Sustainability Leaders of the Future*. (pp. 211-225). Springer Cham. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-22856-8>
- Thomas, T.G. & Harmon H. (Accepted). Foundational understandings for advancing place-based education in rural contexts. In J. Johnson & H. Harmon (Eds.) *Handbook of Rural and Remote Education*. Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.
- Thomas, T.G. & Ogundipe, A. (Accepted). Introducing participatory design elements into secondary classroom assessment through a university engineering and education collaboration. In W. Leal, J. Newman, A. L. Salvia, L. V. Trevisan (Eds.). *North American and European Perspectives on Sustainability in Higher Education*. World Sustainability Series; Springer Nature, Publisher.



Partners Invited

I welcome undergraduate & graduate student partners, in-service teachers, College of Education & other JMU faculty partners, and community partners.

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