

2022-2023 Faculty Senate Mini-Grants

| Faculty | Academic Unit | Engagement Project |
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| Mollie Godfrey & Seán McCarthy | English / WRTC | <p data-bbox="670 310 1414 386"><i>Supporting Multilingual Accessibility and Community Feedback Pathways for the Celebrating Simms Project</i></p> <p data-bbox="670 430 1414 814">Celebrating Simms began in 2015 as a community-university partnership to tell the story of the famed local educator Lucy F. Simms and the school named in her honor, which served Black students in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County from 1938-1965. The mini-grant supported the design and placement of placards with the QR code at all exhibit locations, a reprint of the commemorative booklet updated to include the QR code, and a feedback form for visitors accessible by the QR code.</p> |
| Terry Fernsler | Social Work | <p data-bbox="670 856 1019 894"><i>Grantwriting for Agencies</i></p> <p data-bbox="670 938 1406 1434">This project engaged students to work with staff at local nonprofit organizations to learn about grant writing and then write grants for the nonprofit agencies. The mini-grant was used for one of the nonprofit agency grants, since the possibility of winning a grant ensured that participating nonprofit agency staff worked closely with our students. Skyline Literacy received a grant to help conduct the first Immigrant Leadership Summit in Harrisonburg. The Summit will bring together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of welcoming and inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity.</p> |
| Eric L. Fitzgerald | IDLS | <p data-bbox="670 1480 1008 1518"><i>Smith Island Restoration</i></p> <p data-bbox="670 1562 1406 1892">The Smith Island Restoration trip was conducted the week of May 15-19, 2023, with 15 students participating. The experience included cultural experiences while visiting Tylerton, MD. Tylerton is in Somerset County, the county with the highest rates of poverty in Maryland. Students interviewed local waterman and investigated the history and culture of the island while conducting a major community service project of removing an old crab shanty from</p> |

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| | | <p>the harbor. The project was labor intensive with all students participating. Funds from the mini-grant were used to provide transportation, lodging, and cultural experiences as well as work supplies for the service project.</p> |
| Michelle Hesse & Celestine Woodruff | Health Professions | <p><i>Leveraging Engaged Learning and Cross-Disciplinary Engagement to Explore Practices of Longevity Inspired by Centenarians from Around the Globe</i></p> <p>JMU faculty designed a study abroad course for summer 2024 in Nicoya Costa Rica entitled "Community, Food Culture and Mind-Body Connection: Applying the Principles of the Blue Zones in a Multidisciplinary Immersive Experience". This mini-grant provided the funds necessary to equip the course with yoga mats that students can use throughout the curriculum to explore mind-body connections. The yoga mats were also used to facilitate mind-body sessions in yoga and meditation classes with students in the Occupational Therapy and Dietetics Program.</p> |
| Adrienne Hooker | Media Arts & Design | <p><i>The Power of Visual Storytelling: Engaging Foundation-level Media Arts Students in Bridging the Gap</i></p> <p>This project was an outcome of engaged learning experiences for undergraduate students in Media Arts & Design. They traveled to Waynesboro to conduct interviews with City Council members from Waynesboro and Charlottesville, a Virginia delegate, and the founders of RISE. Students learned how RISE impacts their local community through civic engagement and training, their annual women's summit, and witnessed firsthand the impact of RISE's educational mission with their young scholars in their afterschool programming while also seeing the largest all-Black library in Virginia.</p> |
| Erin Kamarunas | Communication Sciences & Disorders | <p><i>Biofeedback for Patients with Swallowing Difficulty</i></p> <p>The JMU/Sentara RMH Voice and Swallow Clinic is a collaborative clinic that offers outpatient consultation, evaluation, and treatment for patients with swallowing, voice, or vocal fold movement disorders.</p> |

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| | | <p>It also serves as a training clinic for doctoral, master's, and undergraduate Communication Sciences and Disorders Department students. The Faculty Senate funds were used to purchase an Iowa Oral Pressure Instrument (IOPI), a biofeedback device that measures oral pressure during swallowing for patients with swallowing difficulty. The funds allowed one IOPI device to be solely dedicated to the clinic at Sentara RMH for patient use.</p> |
| <p>Elisabeth Kvernen</p> | <p>Media Arts & Design</p> | <p><i>Dreams Unfolding: Exploring Storytelling and Identity among Refugee Youth</i></p> <p><i>Dreams Unfolding</i> was a 6-week summer arts workshop for high school students from refugee backgrounds that empowered each participant to give voice to their own story and further explore their own identity. The workshop was co-sponsored by Church World Service. Participants shaped their story through open-ended writing prompts, strengthened their visual storytelling skills through photographic collage, and expressed their fluid cultural identities through movement and dance. During the final public exhibit of their work on September 3, participants shared their stories through writing, collage, and storytelling with members of the broader community. The Daily News Record wrote an article about the exhibit</p> |
| <p>Jennifer Lang-Rigal</p> | <p>Foreign Languages, Literatures & Cultures</p> | <p><i>Spanish in Harrisonburg</i></p> <p>The Faculty Senate Mini-Grant (2022-2023) supported this year's data collection for the Spanish in Harrisonburg project, which has been ongoing since 2017. I lead SPAN 404 (<i>Spanish in the United States</i>) students in field work performed in Harrisonburg with the goal of documenting and studying the Spanish spoken in our community by recording interviews with local speakers of Spanish and analyzing the features of their speech that tell their unique stories of language acquisition, language contact, bilingualism, and diaspora. The funding from this grant was given to our speaker-participants to compensate them for their</p> |

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| | | time and cooperation and allowed us to collect 15 more interviews. The videos and photos collected by past courses can be seen on the project website https://sites.lib.jmu.edu/spanhburg/ . |
| Cathy McKay | Kinesiology | <p><i>Power of Contact: Expanding the Reach of the Paralympic Skill</i></p> <p>The 2023 Paralympic Skill Lab reached approximately 421 students on March 1, 2023—the greatest reach for the Lab in eight years. This Paralympic education experience involved practice sessions and 1:1 interaction with three Paralympic athletes, three community wheelchair basketball players, and two adapted sport experts over the course of a 50-min class period. Students were able to examine their feelings, beliefs, and behaviors and begin to question the impact their dispositions have on other people as they considered the idealized notion of “normal” against which people with disabilities are often compared.</p> |
| Carole Nash | SIS: ISAT | <i>Hiding in Plain Sight: Community Memory in Mount Crawford, Virginia</i> |
| Rachel Rhoades | School of Theatre & Dance | <p><i>Around the World in 8 Plays Harrisonburg Elementary School Performance Tour</i></p> <p>The Theatre for Young Audiences course performed a play to two local elementary schools in the spring of 2023. The mini-grant allowed for us to purchase the set, costumes and props to make the play as entertaining as possible for the young students. JMU students created accompanying lesson plan guides for use in classrooms. The funding gave students the opportunity for experiential learning beyond the JMU campus and enhanced student capacity in community engagement.</p> |
| Amanda Sawyer | Middle, Secondary & Mathematics | <p><i>JMU Upward Bound Translation Devices</i></p> <p>The JMU Upward Bound program (https://www.jmu.edu/coe/upwardbound/index.shtml)</p> |

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| | | <p>provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their pre-college academic and extracurricular performance to ultimately build foundational skills to further the potential for achievement in their higher education pursuits. The program was able to purchase translation devices and document translation to advertise and communicate about the program in Spanish, Kurdish, Russian, Arabic, Swahili, and Tigrinya to serve 51 students from Harrisonburg City Public Schools and Rockingham County Public Schools. The mini-grant allowed the program to communicate with local families in their own languages, which supported recruitment of participants into the program.</p> |
| Krishnan Shankar | Mathematics & Statistics | <p><i>M&S Learning Suite</i></p> <p>The Learning Suite was established a year ago from space vacated by Pre-Professional Health. The Suite is staffed by faculty and offers over 20 hours per week of free tutoring in a variety of first year mathematics and statistics classes. Last academic year, we had about 1050 unique student visits to the space. We wanted to make the space more welcoming to students with couches and artwork. The mini-grant helped us to do just that!</p> |
| Margaret F. Sloan | School of Strategic Leadership Studies | <p><i>Educating Tomorrow's Refugee Girl Business Leaders</i></p> <p>The entrepreneurial camp <i>Educating Diverse Youth Business Leaders</i> ran through June 20-23, 2023, in the JMU College of Business's Hartman Hall. The cornerstone of the project was a week of training to inculcate a grasp of fundamental business principles, leadership skills, and non-cognitive skills. The 25 middle school participants reflected the increasingly multilingual character of the local population, with participants speaking English, various Arabic dialects, Russian, Ukrainian, Kurdish, and Swahili. During the camp, the young leaders developed their own projects and presented them on the final day</p> |