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College of Science and Math

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Brent Lewis, AVP Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Student Affairs

Rudy M. Molina, Jr., VP-Student Academic Success & Enroll Management

Jennifer PeeksMease, Associate Professor, School of Speech
Communications Studies

TFRE CC WORKING GROUP CO-CHAMPION

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, johns4dt@jmu.edu

RECOMMENCATION TITLE: AAC&U Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Ctr.

INTRODUCTION:

Below is the recommendation for JMU to begin the steps that would allow us to apply for the 2021 conference of the Association of American Colleges and Universities' Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT). At the conference attendees would be given skills to effectively work towards racial healing and will also learn the requirements, benefits and opportunities of becoming a Campus Center as part of TRHT initiative. This submission is time sensitive as work needs to be done to register and attend AAC&U's June 2021 conference, which is the first step in the application process.

A few brief words about AAC&U's initiative: AAC&U is partnering with higher education institutions to develop Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Centers to prepare the next generation of strategic leaders and thinkers to break down racial hierarchies and dismantle the belief in the hierarchy of human value.

With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation, and Papa John's Foundation, AAC&U works with higher education institutions across the country to develop self-sustaining, community-integrated [TRHT Campus Centers](#). Organized around the five pillars of the TRHT framework—narrative change, racial healing and relationship building, separation, law, and economy—TRHT prioritizes relationship building and narrative change. (*Statements are from the AAC&U Website*)

PROBLEM/ISSUE:

Since racial equity and social justice issues continue to show themselves as unresolved in our communities, throughout the U.S. and across the world, one way for JMU to fulfill its global engagement vision is for JMU to further grow its affiliations and collaborations beyond campus borders, indeed, "Engage with ideas around the world." JMU's vision is to be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world.

Recommendation and Measures of Success are on page 2

TASK FORCE CO-CHAIR TEAM



Cynthia Bauerle



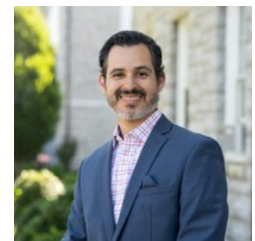
Art Dean



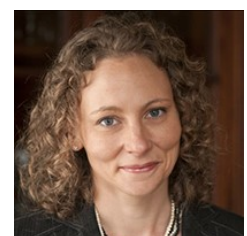
Deborah Tompkins Johnson



Brent Lewis



Rudy Molina



Jennifer PeeksMease

RECOMMENDATION:

Initially, we recommend JMU register to attend AAC&U's June 2021 TRHT institute. Attending and participating at AAC&U's Truth Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) Campus Center conference would allow JMU to begin to learn the TRHT framework and to consider applying to be a TRHT Campus Center and if so, to determine the focus area for JMU to put forward in an application.

- President Alger would designate a department to allocate the \$3,500 conference fee which allows up to five (5) attendees. Likely, this department would have management/oversight of conference participation.
- The department, would confirm all TRHT conference requirements, schedules, deadlines, etc.
- The department, the TFRE Co-Chairs and President Alger or his designee would name conference attendees. Note that AAC&U generally advises a campus-community collaboration. So, at least one community member would need to be named as an attendee.

This recommendation is a two-step process.

- The initial recommendation is to attend the June 2021 conference. Those steps are outlined above. The second step is to consider submitting an application to become a TRHT Campus Center.
- Following the conference, attendees and possibly others identified by you or your designee would form a team to brainstorm and research in order to determine the strategic focus for JMU's TRHT Campus Center initiative.
- While the conference attendees would be involved in preparing the application, President Alger may determine the need to use additional University staff and/or students to ensure a comprehensive and highly competitive application.

Again, to fulfill its vision, it is imperative JMU continue to expand its partnerships and collaborations on vital issues of which racial equity is now at the forefront.

The following statements from AAC&U's president confirm the importance of collaboration:

"Colleges and universities must play a leadership role in promoting racial and social justice," said AAC&U President Lynn Pasquerella. "Individual and collective attempts to counter racism are often impeded by our society's unwillingness to engage in a national conversation around rapidly expanding racial and economic segregation. We must begin to have these conversations on college and university campuses, recognizing that issues of diversity and inclusion must be at the forefront of public discussion and private debate every single day. Racial and social justice cannot be viewed as the responsibility of a single individual or group, nor the exclusive purview of a particular office. Instead, we must each work toward creating a learning environment where students can thrive free from the burdens of discrimination. As civil rights leader Barbara Smith reminds us, 'the most radical step we can take is coming together'."

JMU is already active with the Association of American Colleges & Universities and has been involved with AAC&U at many levels for several years. Currently, President Jon Alger serves on its board of directors.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- JMU participates in the June 2021 conference. Subsequently, earnest discussions are held regarding the requirements, benefits and opportunities of applying for Campus Center designation. Once/if a decision is made to pursue, strategic approach is identified and the application is completed in a timely manner.
- Once/if JMU applies for the TRHT Campus Center designation, the University is a successful candidate.