

Institution Name: James Madison University
Location: Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
Website: www.jmu.edu



1. Key administrative personnel and faculty contact information

*Jonathan R. Alger, J.D., President (president@jmu.edu)

*Dr. Malika Carter-Hoyt, Vice President for Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Chief Diversity Officer (carte5mx@jmu.edu)

*Dr. Carole Nash, Chair, Native American and Indigenous Awareness, Relations, and Action Working Group (nashcl@jmu.edu)

2. About your institution

Founded in 1908, James Madison University has a 675-acre campus in Harrisonburg, Virginia. JMU is a comprehensive, public university offering programs on the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels. With more than 139 programs of study, JMU prioritizes teaching, and undergraduate students are well-mentored and provided opportunities for scholarly and professional development. The current undergraduate student population is 20,346, with 1,752 graduate students, and the student/faculty ratio is 17:1. It is recognized as the Best College in Virginia for Getting a Job and has an 86% graduation rate. JMU maintains 25 residence halls available exclusively to first-year students. It offers over 400 scholarships, including merit- and need-based support for incoming freshmen, current students, and transfer students:

<https://www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships/index.shtml>

3. If your institution has a land acknowledgment, mention it here or detail efforts to create a land acknowledgment.

The Shenandoah Valley of Virginia has been home to Indigenous communities for millennia, resulting in a complex history. The acknowledgment of traditional land is a public act of respect for Indigenous peoples and a statement toward correcting the stories and practices that continue to erase their histories and cultures. Acknowledgment is also a starting point for action. JMU is committed to developing a powerful, meaningful, and equitable land acknowledgment that embodies the genuine respect and appreciation for the original stewards of the lands that are now home to our university. The Native American and Indigenous Awareness, Relations, and Action Working Group Working Group strives to create a statement with guidance from and in partnership with members of the Indigenous communities of Virginia and looks forward to sharing this statement in the coming year as part of larger initiatives of Tribal engagement.

4. If your institution has a tribal consultation policy, mention it here or detail efforts to create a consultation policy.

JMU has not yet developed a tribal consultation policy. It has established a NAGPRA Task Force, a formal committee and structure to oversee adherence to the 2024 revisions. The committee is undertaking a university-wide audit and would like to work with Indigenous partners to develop procedures and protocols.

5. Describe your institution's goals regarding inclusion of and relations with Virginia's Indigenous Nations. Please specifically address each of the 6 VINHE focus areas in your answer.

i.Land and Watershed Management and Conservation: Institute for the Stewardship of the Natural World and Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Energy would like to partner with Tribal Nations and offer expertise in agriculture, forestry, restoration, and renewable energy.

ii.Cultural Resources: History, Archives, Justice: *College of Integrated Science and Engineering and College of Arts and Letters – Cultural Heritage, Ethnohistory (Environmental Archaeology Laboratory); *Libraries – Special Collections and Digital Scholarship. All interested in bringing many years' experience in these areas as needed.

iii.Preparation for, Access to, and Success in Higher Education: *Admissions Office is partnering with V-TEC; *Financial Aid Office is interested in working the Tribal students and their families; *Advancement Office is researching Indigenous student scholarship opportunities; *Student Affairs and Center for Multi-Cultural Student Services are interested in developing programming to support Tribal students.

iv.Legal Issues, Infrastructure, and Business Development: *College of Business – Gilliam Center for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Center are prepared to advise Tribal Nations.

v.Embracing Tribal History in K-12 Education Standards: *College of Education – Training and Technical Assistance Center; Virginia New Teacher Support Program; Grow Your Own Teaching Fellows Program (scholarships); *College of Arts and Letters – curriculum development in Virginia Native American History.

vi.Tribal Community Health: *College of Health and Behavioral Studies – Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services; faculty specializations in health disparities, infectious and chronic disease, epidemiology and public health, and environmental health.

6. Provide any resources of interest including relevant academic programs, student groups, initiatives, etc.

*2022-present: Native American and Indigenous Awareness, Relations, and Action Working Group (Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Dr. Malika Carter-Hoyt) <https://www.jmu.edu/inclusion/vice-president/initiatives/iarawg.shtml>

*Native American Student Union (student organization, Center for Multicultural Student Services)

*March 2024: Began a university-wide inventory of courses/research/outreach by faculty who are engaged with Native American and Indigenous work. The goal is to gather information and create a Native American Studies minor and/or teaching units that can be used in all colleges.

*JMU libraries has purchased materials, including a wide range of children's books highlighting Native American authors and life and has removed colonial language in search terms and have developed exhibits that include Native characters, stories and themes.

7. Provide information on any existing partnerships you have with tribal nations.

March 2024: President Alger sent letters of introduction and invitations to all Tribal Nation Chiefs to begin discussions and partnership development.