

Campus Resources and Programs for Indigenous Nations



Institution Name: University of Mary Washington

Location: Fredericksburg, Virginia

Website: www.umw.edu

1. Key administrative personnel and faculty contact information

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2. About your institution

At the University of Mary Washington, we're committed to building a better world through groundbreaking scholarship and an inclusive community. As a public liberal arts university, we're harnessing the power of the liberal arts to educate the next great generation of problem solvers. We are home to over 4,000 students and a host of majors in the liberal arts, education, business, and health areas. Within our institution, we have a space dedicated to the cultural education and enrichment of our campus community called the James Farmer Multicultural Center (JFMC). The JFMC is home to our Native American Student Association.

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

Presently we have an acknowledgement statement that can be found in our Theatre program playbills. We look forward to cultivating relationships to explore more opportunities for acknowledgement and partnership.

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

We welcome the opportunity to learn about how to create a policy.

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.

We are eager to broaden our work and relationships with Virginia's Indigenous Nations. The six focus areas are also of importance to us. We look forward to the opportunity to make connections to extend current work being done on campus about land and watershed conservation management. We are happy to have worked with Indigenous Nations on cultural resource knowledge and preservation, and would like to deepen this work. Our Admissions department has made strides to provide access to indigenous students by making connections, but we would like to partner to increase our outreach and to do all that we can to ensure that they will be successful within college. We also look forward to making strides on legal issues, infrastructure, business development, and tribal health, as well as extending work to embrace tribal history within education.

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

Within our History and American Studies departments there are course offerings such as Native American History to 1890 and since 1890. There are also a host of independent study projects students complete. Within our Anthropology and Historic Preservation programs students have worked on projects on Native peoples, Virginian Indigenous individuals, and the Native American heritage trail in King George County. Our Native American Cultural Celebration takes place during the first week of every November during Native American Heritage Month. This celebration features keynote speakers or performers from different Native American tribes within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Here is a link from our 2023 celebration:

<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/native-american-cultural-celebration/>

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

Currently, we have existing partnerships with the two local tribes in our region, the Patowomeck and Rappahannock tribes. We have worked with them on historical and interpretive research. They have also come to campus to share their experiences. Within the last three years, we've had the two chiefs from those tribes, Chief Charles "Bootsie" Bullock and Chief Anne Richardson, as our keynote speakers during our Native American Cultural Celebrations. Last year, we had Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason, member of the Ho-Chunk/Schaghticoke tribe, as one of our session facilitators at our Social Justice and Leadership Summit. We are also working with Victoria Ferguson from the Monacan Nation. She was the keynote speaker for our Native American Cultural Celebration this past November. The current president and vice president of our Native American Student Association are members of the Patowomeck and Rappahannock tribes. We also have notable Alumni who have connections including an archaeologist who is on the Patowomeck Tribal Council, and a history graduate who worked for the Rappahannock Tribe.