

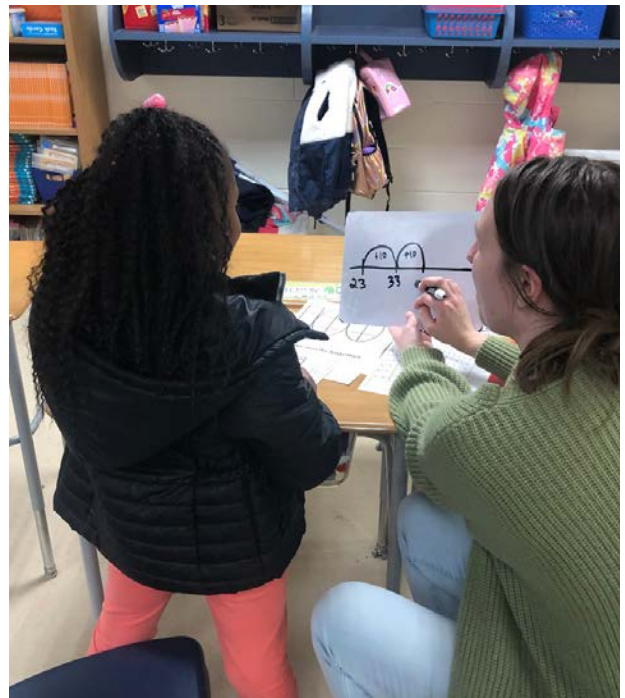
# PARTNERSHIP REPORT

UMW Center for Community Engagement

**University of  
Mary Washington**

## Collaboration

Every year, the University of Mary Washington and Fredericksburg City Public Schools (FCPS) support each other in our educational missions. This report provides a summary of collaboration during the 2022-2023 school year and the range of projects that represent a positive partnership between the UMW Center for Community Engagement, the UMW College of Education, and Fredericksburg City Public Schools.



A UMW student works with an elementary student on skip counting.

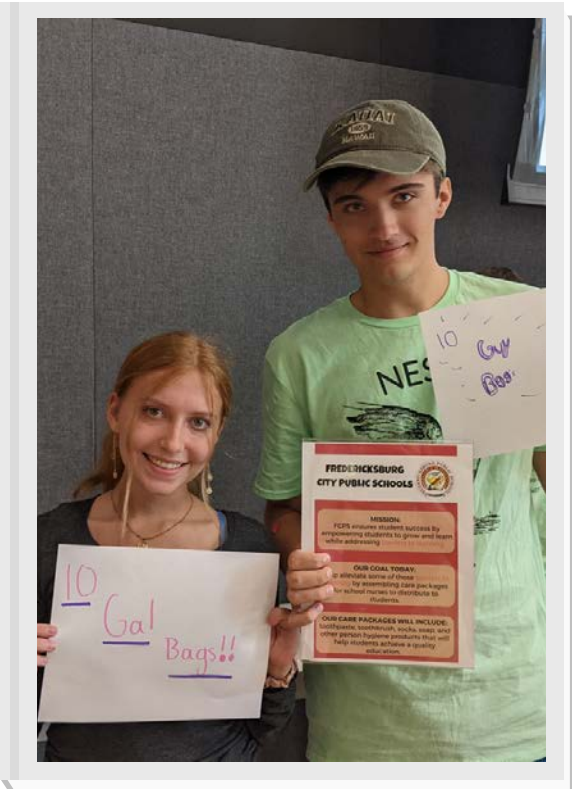


COAR students deliver fleece blankets and hygiene kits to Walker Grant Middle School.

## Donations

UMW students worked with the Center for Community Engagement and the student-run service group, COAR (Community Outreach and Resources), to provide needed donations for FCPS. After consultation with the FCPS Director of Family & Community Engagement and Special Initiatives, COAR organized volunteer events to meet community needs.

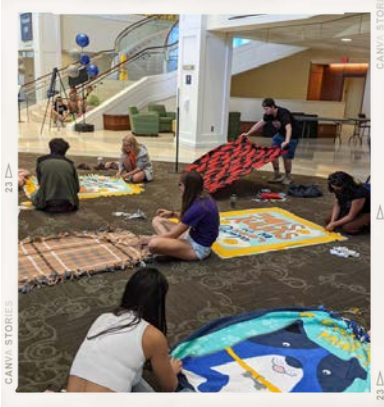
# Donations, cont'd



Starting in August with early arrival programs for the UMW students, student volunteers helped assemble personal hygiene kits with shampoo, soap, and other items that are donated to school nurses in elementary and high schools. COAR organizes a day of service each month, and partners with the James Farmer Multicultural Center to celebrate a MLK Day of Service in January. During MLK Day of Service, Into the Streets, Pay it Forward Day, and Engage with the Earth, UMW students assembled fleece blankets, hygiene kits, and summer care packages for children in Fredericksburg City Public Schools.



These donations are delivered to local schools in the City of Fredericksburg. On Monday May 1st, COAR was honored to accept an award from the Fredericksburg City School Board and the Virginia School Board Association. COAR was recognized for their work coordinating donation drives and volunteer projects to support students in Fredericksburg City Public Schools.





# Start on Success Program



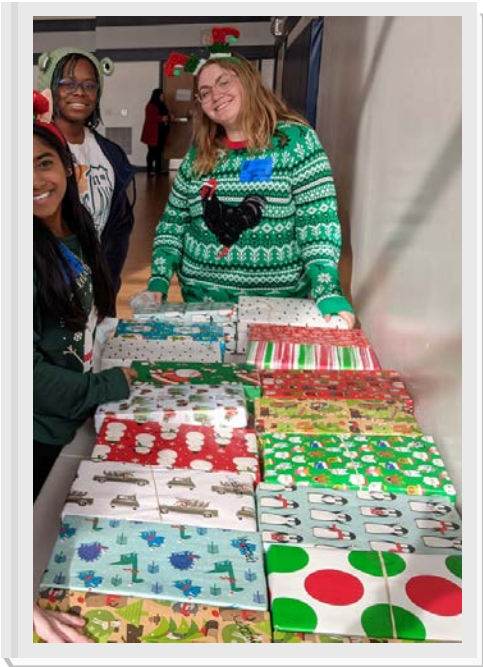
Starting with the 2021-22 academic year, UMW established a partnership with James Monroe High School (JMHS) for a paid internship program for up to 8 high school seniors. JMHS received a grant for a 3-year pilot of the “Start on Success” program. This program connects high school seniors, who receive services through an IEP and are on a path to completion of a standard or advanced diploma, with paid internship experiences. Students are carefully selected into the program in the Spring of their junior year, and receive classroom instruction to prepare them for field experiences in the Fall of their senior year.

They begin their paid internships in Spring of their senior year. They spend 3 hours a day, 5 days a week at their placement, over the course of 16 weeks. They are accompanied on campus by the program coordinator who checks in regularly with each student. In the 2022-23 school year, the UMW departments of Student Health, Dining, and Facilities are hosting 7 students on the UMW campus. One of the many positive outcomes: Last year, Facilities hired an electrical intern as a part-time employee after graduation due to his work ethic and willingness to learn and work.

In 2023 UMW received the **Employer of the Year** award from the Virginia Division on Career Development and Transition for their participation in the Start on Success program.



# Gift Box Drive



Every year the COAR program at UMW conducts a gift box drive for students in the FCPS Head Start and Virginia Preschool Initiative program. UMW faculty, staff and students all "check out" gift boxes and return them with the requested donations. Boxes are filled throughout the month of November. Each box includes a hat, gloves, a coloring book, art supplies, toothbrush and toothpaste, and a small toy.

UMW students with the gift boxes they helped fill for FCPS students.

UMW students work with staff at FCPS and the Head Start Program to deliver the gift boxes to the Walker Grant Center. In December 2022, students delivered 290 gift boxes to the early childhood classes, and assisted Santa in handing out the boxes to students.



Head Start students open their gift boxes.





# Hazel Hill Homework Club



Hazel Hill Homework Club is an after-school homework assistance program for elementary and middle school students at the affordable housing Hazel Hill Apartments in downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia. The program is owned by the National Housing Trust and volunteering is supported by the College of Education at the University of Mary Washington through a partnership. The program runs Mondays-Thursdays, 3:45pm – 5:30pm. Over 8 UMW students volunteered through the Hazel Hill tutoring program in the 2022-23 school year.



A UMW student assists an elementary school student with homework.

## Hope House and Bigs in Schools

UMW students also support FCPS students through a range of other programs. Twice a week, UMW student provide tutoring and mentoring at Loisanne's Hope House. The local Big Brothers, Big Sisters sends UMW students to Walker Grant Middle School and Lafayette Elementary School as part of their Bigs in Schools mentoring program. Both of these program are supported through UMW's student-run service program, COAR (Community Outreach and Resources).



# UMW College of Education



The UMW College of Education continues to enjoy a robust collaboration with Fredericksburg City Public Schools (FCPS). There are many examples of the way the UMW College of Education and FCPS support each other's respective goals, missions, and strategic plans. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the UMW College of Education placed 34 students in practicum placements with FCPS schools and FCPS teachers hosted 11 interns and 1 paid intern for student teaching clinical experiences. Staff and faculty in the FCPS system have graciously welcomed UMW students into FCPS classrooms and provided vibrant opportunities for real-world learning. In some cases, interns later join the teaching faculty at the school where they had their practicum, helping FCPS with their recruitment goals.

The UMW College of Education provides unique learning opportunities for youth in the FCPS system. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the College of Education brought over 1000 local K-12 students on campus to explore STEAM projects and STEM initiatives. The College of Education was excited to host all of the 5th graders from Hugh Mercer and Lafayette Elementary Schools for field trips in April 2023. Additional STEM outreach included the UMW College of Education staff assisting Walker Grant Middle School with the judging of the spring science fair.



# UMW College of Education, cont'd

In addition, the UMW College of Education is driving two initiatives that support the FCPS. The first is the UMW **Pathways to Excellence** program that trains clinical faculty to support both UMW clinical interns and FCSP novice teachers. In addition, the COE developed a **Regional Collaboration for Mentoring**, which is helping to create free mentor training resources to the districts. It is a state requirement that all teachers who have been teaching less than 3 years have a mentor, so this initiative is working to meet the need for mentors locally. FCPS has representation on both the Regional Collaboration for Mentoring Leadership Team and Advisory Group.

Finally, faculty and staff from the UMW College of Education, including Dean Peter Kelly and Associate Dean Janine Davis, are supporting the FCPS by helping with strategic planning and visioning for the FCPS, and FCPS Superintendent Marci Catlett serves on the UMW College of Education Advisory Board.



## UMW Center for Community Engagement

The UMW Center for Community Engagement is located in Suite 320 in the Cedric Rucker University Center. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for community engagement between UMW and our greater communities, building bridges between students, faculty, staff, and community partners through effective relationships that bring about student learning and positive social change.

Center for Community Engagement  
Suite 320 CRUC  
Fredericksburg VA, 22401  
@umwcce  
540-654-1122