

[Energy Vision]

## JMU leads Virginia efforts in renewable energy

*JMU to coordinate state's green goals*

By ERIC GORTON ('86, '09M)

While a number of individuals, organizations and businesses across the state have been involved for many years in trying to boost Virginia's use of renewable energy from agriculture, solar and wind, there has not been a coordinated effort.

Enter JMU. With the recent creation of the Virginia 25x'25 State Alliance, headquartered at JMU, a coalition now exists that can shape the state's energy policy and demonstrate renewable energy strategies for other states as well.

Research officials at JMU organized the Virginia 25x'25 State Alliance, which is modeled after a national organization with similar goals. The alliance will develop a new

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— KEN NEWBOLD JR.,  
director of research development at JMU and a member of the Virginia 25x'25 State Alliance

energy vision for the commonwealth and will promote that vision to decision makers, opinion leaders and other stakeholders.

To further exemplify the commitment of Virginia stakeholders to meet the goals of 25x'25, JMU is coordinating the 25x'25 Shenandoah Valley Demonstration Project. The project will use a mix of local resources to increase local renewable energy production while emphasizing efficiency to reduce overall energy consumption. Because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., and the Eastern Seaboard, the



Ken Newbold, JMU director of research development and member of 25x'25.

Shenandoah Valley presents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to a wide audience how America can achieve the national goal of getting 25 percent energy from clean, renewable sources. The 25x'25 Shenandoah Valley Demonstration Project will be a model for other regions of the state and nation in implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

"It's an exciting time in our country for renewable energy and Virginia's 25x'25 Alliance is dedicated to making our state a front-runner in this industry," says Kenneth F. Newbold Jr., director of research development at JMU and a member of the Virginia 25x'25 State Alliance. "Our vast agriculture and forestry resources will play a key part in Virginia's energy future."

Other members of the alliance include the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Hampton Roads Clean Fuels Coalition and Osage Bioenergy. **M**

[Fulbright Honors]

## Alumna earns Fulbright to teach in Slovakia

*Traci Cox ('08) will prep Slovakian teens for college*

Traci Cox ('08) spent her summer learning to speak Slovak while also studying the history of Slovakia. In September, she will travel to the central European country to teach English to high-school students who are preparing for college. Cox earned a highly competitive Fulbright teaching assistantship, the culmination of an arduous application process that began last year.

"The Fulbright application is a very lengthy process with lots of waiting and frantically running back and forth to the mailbox," says Cox, an Honors Program graduate who majored in English and minored in anthropology.

The application included writing a pair of essays, interviewing with the JMU Fulbright panel and sending the application package to the Fulbright Commission in New York. After gaining approval from the New York panel, which took four months, Cox had to send her application to a panel in Slovakia for further review — and more anxious waiting.

Learning the Slovak language, which is full of consonant strings and different sounds, is a breeze compared to waiting for the Fulbright award decision, says Cox, who also speaks some French and German.

The high-school students she will teach at a private school in Zilina, Slovakia's fourth largest city, will be intermediate English speakers and should have a fairly good command of the language, she says. To get into college, Slovak students are required to pass a rigorous English exam. In addition to learning grammar, they learn English literature and study American culture.

Cox is not required to learn Slovak for the assistantship, but she wants to be able to interact with the Slovak people as much as possible during her 10-month assignment. Following her work in Slovakia, Cox plans to attend graduate school and pursue her passion for creative writing. **M**

\* [www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general10666.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/jmuweb/general/news/general10666.shtml)



Traci Cox ('08) earned a 2009 Fulbright award and will help prepare Slovakian teens for college by teaching them English.

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