

to nontraditional students in new ways and looking at innovative programs and providing multiple modes of delivery.”

When it comes to service, the outreach and engagement staff offers convenience, advising and personalized attention. When it comes to programs, they offer undergraduate and graduate courses, certificates, full degree programs at a distance, customized programs and noncredit programs.

“By extending JMU resources beyond campus, we are providing learning opportunities for people who may not have other options,” says Jim Shaeffer, associate vice provost for outreach and engagement.

Because not everyone can come to the JMU campus for programs and study, the office offers distance-learning sites in Martinsville and Roanoke and hopes to add a third center in the future.

A main outreach and engagement objective is to foster partnerships while engaging individuals and communities to reach and exceed both their personal and professional goals. Fleming believes these partnerships “help to build a better relationship between JMU and the community.”

More than 20 partnerships contribute to the success of outreach and engagement. Among these are Blue Ridge Community College; Clarke

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County High School; Rosetta Stone; Greene, Page, Rockingham and Shenandoah County Schools; and the Virginia Department of Correctional Education.

The Clark County High School partnership provides high-school students with university courses and experiences designed to help them better prepare for the challenges of college.

“I leave meetings at JMU energized by the possibilities and the positive, produc-

tive approaches the folks at JMU have in finding creative ways to meet community and school needs,” says Clark Hansbarger, coordinator of the Bridge Program and Dual Enrollment at Clarke County High School. “JMU’s attitude about student success matched ours and has been the key to the success of our partnership.”

Rosetta Stone, another partnership, offers a series of project management training sessions to their employees

through the outreach and engagement program. “Application of the principles taught during these training sessions resulted in significant efficiency gains at Rosetta Stone in the areas of project scheduling and budgeting,” says Dale Richards, a producer at Rosetta Stone. “Our team continues to apply these principles, two years after the JMU outreach program provided us with this training.”

* Read more at www.jmu.edu/outreach/.

[Community Partnerships]

Caregivers Community Network lauded

The National Alliance for Caregiving and MetLife Foundation recognized the JMU Caregivers Community Network with a 2009 National Family Caregiving Award at the NAC annual meeting.

The awards honor community-based programs that support family caregivers of older adults, and they recognize innovation, effectiveness and responsiveness to caregiver needs.

The JMU Caregivers Community Network recruits and trains community volunteers and JMU students to provide respite and companion-care services to families caring for frail or disabled older adults in rural Virginia. The community partnership is coordinated by the JMU Institute for Health and Human Services under the direction of the nursing department.

The network provides students with numerous opportunities to reach out to the community via service learning.

Nonprofit organizations from around the states competed for the National Family Caregivers Awards. The nonprofit National Alliance for Caregiving

‘Family caregiving is the underpinning of the U.S. health-care system, with a value to society estimated at \$306 billion per year.’



National Alliance for Caregiving representative Jordan Green (left) congratulates nursing professor Erika Metzler Sawin on the Caregivers Community Network award.

reports that “family caregiving is the underpinning of the U.S. health-care system, with a value to society estimated at \$306 billion per year — more than the value of home care and nursing care combined.

The JMU Caregivers Community Network offers services for all frail elders and their family caregivers in Augusta, Page, Rockingham and Shenandoah counties and the cities within. The services include regular personalized in-home companion care, educational workshops and support services, telephone consultation to supply caregivers with support, caregiver tips and resources, partnerships with community-service and faith-based organizations, and errand running like picking up prescriptions or groceries to aid the caregiver.

* Read more at www.socwork.jmu.edu/Caregivers/.