

# M@dlison



Mutual Learning

## Carnegie Foundation applauds community engagement

By REBECCA KNORR ('11)

JMU has joined an exclusive roster of 311 institutions of higher education that have been granted Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation.

The classification acknowledges the extensive academic, research, teaching and service programs through which JMU collaborates with the community, as well as the high number of students and professors who volunteer. The application process included documenting the extensive ongoing efforts across JMU.

"It is heartening to see this level of commitment and activity," Carnegie President Anthony Bryk said in a written statement. "Clearly, higher education is making real strides in finding ways to engage with and contribute to important community agendas."

Chelsea Foster ('11), a JMU senior majoring in communication science and disorders, says that a commitment to service has been instilled in her during her time at JMU. "The reciprocity of service is something that both the individual helping and the

individual being helped can't ignore. They learn from each other. Through that learning, stereotypes are broken, trust is built and relationships are formed. That is how an authentic and meaningful community is developed."

The honor will only deepen JMU's engagement, according to James Shaefter, associate vice provost for outreach and engagement. "We fully expect that the process and data gathering required for completing the application will serve as a template for enhancing JMU's campuswide community engagement activities," he says.

Leaders of several JMU programs note that the award confirms the mutual benefits of community engagement. While health-focused collaborations benefit area nonprofits and organizations, they also help prepare society's future health and human services workforce. These experiences provide JMU students with "a heightened awareness of real community assets and needs," says Rhonda Zingraff, director of JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services.

Rich Harris, director of the Office of Community Service-Learning, says his program "helps meet the needs of our local community and improves the standard of life in the Shenandoah Valley through partnerships with 80 local agencies."

\* Learn more at [www.jmu.edu/outreach/carnegie.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/carnegie.shtml)



More than 900 students volunteered for The Big Event on Sat., April 9, to help with service projects in the Harrisonburg community. Students then enjoyed some fun at Madipalooza.

Student organizations helped with clean-up projects in April around Harrisonburg to say "thank you" to the local community.