

James Farmer Multicultural Center
Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report

Native American Cultural Celebration – November 13-16

- The theme this year was “First Nations: We Are Still Here”. This week-long celebration included a Round Dance performance and a cultural celebration dinner in the University Center’s 4th floor dining hall. Coinciding with the JFMC’s Human Rights Film Series, the movie “A River Between Us” was presented and followed with discussion about the largest river restoration project in American history. The next discussion event titled “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: An Emerging Epidemic in the United States” highlighted the numerous cases of missing and murdered indigenous women in the United States as well as the legislation being put forth to combat these unfortunate and tragic incidents. The celebration ended with the NACC keynote speaker, Rose Powhatan, Native American Storyteller. Ms. Powhatan is the co-founder and director of Powhatan Museum of Indigenous Arts and Culture, as well as a mixed-media artist who has taught courses in arts, theater, and humanities in the US and the UK for over 25 years.

Kwanzaa Celebration – November 30

- This year, the James Farmer Multicultural Center along with the Black Student Association, held Kwanzaa on November 30 at 6 pm in the Chandler Ballroom of the University Center. The purpose of Kwanzaa is to educate and entertain the members of the University of Mary Washington community about the culture of Kwanzaa. During the Kwanzaa event, attendees were informed about Kwanzaa’s seven principles, libations, and Zawadi (gift giving). Kwanzaa allows for an opportunity to focus on the importance of family and community.

Like previous years, Kwanzaa is geared to all members of the UMW community. This year we had a great attendance by students, faculty, and administration, as well as community members within Fredericksburg. Each year, the faculty, staff, and administration are invited to serve as an Elder in the program in order to foster a more diverse community and emphasize the importance of Kwanzaa’s culture. Their presence is an essential part of the program because it symbolizes the significance of Kwanzaa. The UMW Praise Dance Ministries, Voices of Praise singing group, and Alter Egos step team performed during the program.

Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration – January 14-27

- In collaboration with the Office of the President, Office of Service, and the MLK Planning Committee, the JFMC assisted in coordinating a series of programs to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy. The campus and local community were invited to journey and reflect during this celebration on how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has affected your life, your community, and your future. This is the sixth year we implemented the MLK, Jr. Kids' Day activities. It was held off campus at the James Monroe High School in collaboration with the community-based Partnership for Excellence organization and their city-wide MLK program. The MLK keynote presentation featuring author and White House Correspondent April Ryan on Wednesday, January 24 at 7 pm. It was very well received among students, faculty and the local community. Ms. Ryan delivered an inspiring speech about her own work as a journalist and White House Correspondent for the last 21 years. The celebration ended with the MLK Jr. Day of Service on Saturday January 27, which lasted from 10 am to 2 pm in Chandler Ballroom. This event provided an opportunity for students to give back to the community to honor Dr. King's commitment to strengthening communities as students completed service projects for Fredericksburg-area agencies, followed by a discussion on servant leadership and social change.