DATE: September 19, 2019

TO: The University Faculty Council (UFC) and all UMW Faculty

FROM: *Erin Devlin*, Assistant Professor of History and American Studies and Chair of Farmer Legacy Council Subcommittee on Academic Collaboration

Sabrina Johnson, Vice President for Equity and Access and CDO and Co-Chair of the Farmer Legacy Council

Juliette Landphair, Vice President for Student Affairs and Co-Chair of the Farmer Legacy Council

RE: **Farmer Legacy 2020: A Centennial Celebration and Commitment to Action**

We would like to bring to the UFC's and all faculty members' attention the important year ahead for the University's commemoration of James Farmer, whose 100th birthday would have been January 12, 2020. President Paino has charged a group of alumni, faculty, staff, and students to *lead efforts to recognize the imprint of Farmer's work as a civil rights activist and educator at the University of Mary Washington. The Council will distinguish Farmer's legacy by showcasing the ways in which UMW advances inclusive excellence and community and civic engagement and by envisioning ways in which to strengthen democratic ideals in our future work and endeavors.*

We write to ask you, as faculty members, to join the commemoration and commitment to action, including the following:

- Consider at least one assignment, project, and/or experiential component for in spring courses that align with Farmer Legacy 2020.

- Consider courses and more of the above for the Fall 2020 that align with Farmer Legacy 2020.

- Take advantage of the Library's wonderful Farmer resources and other resources (see below).

- To stay abreast of communications, programs and events being planned campus -wide by faculty staff and students and be sure to attend or participate whenever you can.

- Share your ideas and any related activities. We plan to provide an online opportunity to do so on the Farmer Legacy 2020 website.

- Commit to one new goal to make learning accessible for all (attend ODR's Accessibility 101; use or create close caption content; check color contrast in digital resources; describe images verbally and in writing, etc.). Contact ODR for assistance.

Dr. Devlin is the chair of the Farmer Legacy Council's subcommittee overseeing this work. She, Sabrina, and Juliette would be happy to come present to the UFC or academic departments about this university-wide commemoiration.

Farmer Legacy 2020's official launch will take place in a few weeks; the primary commemoration and commitment to action will occur in the Spring and Fall semesters 2020. A website and brand will be available soon.

Farmer Legacy 2020: Documentary Footage & Archival Material

The James L. Farmer Collection
A digital collection of images of James Farmer throughout his life. The original photographs are housed in the University Archives. Special Collections & University Archives will be adding additional content to this collection prior to January, 2020, including all of James Farmer's Reflections Lecture series as well as a section for his Honors & Awards.

The James Farmer Lectures
Audio, video, and transcripts
An online archive of Farmer's lectures at Mary Washington College, in video and audio. Created by Laura Donahue '12, Michelle Martz '12, Kelsey Matthews '13, and Caitlin Murphy '12, for Dr. Jeffrey McClurken's Adventures in Digital History seminar. The original lecture recordings are held in the University Archives.

James Farmer and The Great Debaters
The website of a freshman seminar taught in Fall 2007 by Professor Tim O'Donnell. Includes some of James Farmer's speeches, in audio and video formats. http://farmer.umwblogs.org/.

James Farmer and the Freedom Rides Library Resource Guide
Created in 2011 for the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides (will be updated by Library Staff)

Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin
A Guide to the James Leonard, Jr., and Lula Peterson Farmer Papers

2011 documentary, ***The Good Fight***, about James Farmer. Copies available at JFMC and UMW Library.

2010 PBS documentary, ***Freedom Riders***.