

## COE Dean Report

UFC January 2025

- I am happy to report we now have an official chapter of Call Me MiSTER (CMM) in the College of Education. CMM is a national program focused on increasing the diversity within the teaching profession. Justin Wilkes has been hired to serve as the CMM director, and we are conducting a search for his assistant who will also support admissions and recruiting efforts. The recruiting process has begun in earnest.
- Drs. Melissa Jenkins and Rachel Bowman have been awarded a \$24,680 VDOE grant to support provisionally licensed special education teachers in completing courses required for licensure in Special Education. This Community of Practice grant will provide important professional development for underprepared special education teachers in our area.
- The College of Education will be hosting our annual District Day on Monday, January 27 from 2:30 - 6:30 in the forum of Seacobeck Hall. This is an event that is open to all UMW students, but we highly encourage COE students to attend. We will have 15 school divisions represented as well as the career center. This is a great chance for students to discover the wide range of job opportunities that are available in school divisions, including substitute teaching and tutoring.
- The College of Education continues to work in collaboration with our K-12 colleagues to get elementary and middle school students excited about STEM learning. Often working with our Jepson colleagues, we hosted nine field trips that brought in about 650 students to campus during the fall semester. These field trips create powerful learning experiences for gifted students, and for students with disabilities. They also serve as opportunities for our students preparing to be teachers to develop and implement STEM focused lessons.