

Education

- I am happy to share that COE alumni and faculty continue to be recognized for their outstanding work. At the end of the 2024-25 school year, 11 College of Education alumni were named New Teachers of the Year in the schools. Two students, Grace Sylvia and Sarah Batchelor, won outstanding student awards from the Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (VACTE), and Dr. Christy Irish won the Faculty Impact Award from VACTE
- Faculty and staff in the COE continue to work hard to meet the needs of under-prepared teachers in our partner schools. Our successful and growing school-university partnership (SUP) program provides new teacher support, professional development, and classroom-based coaching for inexperienced teachers. Last year, we provided professional development support to more than 1,000 teachers, and that work continues this year.
- **Future Educators Academy (FEA)** The FEA is a Partnership Lab school focused on working with high school students interested in the teaching profession. This program will facilitate FEA students transfer to UMW when specific criteria are met. Per Germanna's website: "Future Educators Academy (FEA) is a Virginia College Partnership Laboratory School that lets you earn a full associate degree through dual enrollment and step straight onto a fast track to teacher licensure. Transfer-ready: FEA features specialized transfer agreements with four-year institutions across the Commonwealth so you can finish your bachelor's and earn your teaching license two years after high school graduation."
This program is in year two, and UMW may see these students as early as 2026-2027. The program is targeting elementary and special education licensure areas. There are six high schools participating in the GCC area and eight in the Laurel Ridge area.

Health Fields: In an effort to help address the critical shortage in health care fields in the region:

- The proposal for the Master of Nursing program has been submitted to SCHEV including tracks for Nurse Educators, and Nurse Practitioners, and the search for a Director of the Nurse Practitioner program has begun. With state program approval, and additional state funding, our goal is to bring in our first class fall 2026
- The proposal for a Master of Counseling program to include a School Counselor and a Mental Health Counselor track has been drafted by three faculty with clinical psychology expertise (Miriam Liss, Erin Palmwood, & Laura Wilson). It will move through the University curriculum approval process during the fall semester. If approved through all curricular processes, and additional state funding is provided, our goal is to bring in our inaugural class fall 2027.