



# HANDBOOK

# JAMES FARMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

| University of Mary Washington |

“Our responsibility is not merely to provide access to knowledge; we must produce educated people.”- James L. Farmer

# James Farmer Scholars Program Handbook

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## **Who Is James Farmer?**

James Farmer, a former resident of Spotsylvania County, was born in Marshall, Texas on January 12, 1920. Mr. Farmer earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree from Wiley College in 1938 and received the Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree from the Howard University School of Religion in 1941. He received numerous honorary degrees including degrees from Butler University, Lake Forest College, the University of Rhode Island, Adelphi University as well as a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Mary Washington College.

James Farmer published nearly a hundred articles in various national magazines, political science journals, newspapers, and law journals. He is the author of two books, Freedom When, published in 1965, and Lay Bare the Heart: An Autobiography of the Civil Rights Movement, published in 1985.

James Farmer retired from Mary Washington College as Distinguished College Professor of History and American Studies in 1998. Other positions previously held by Mr. Farmer include serving as the Virginia Commonwealth Professor of History at Mary Washington College, teaching for the College of Education at New York University, serving as Professor of Social Welfare at Lincoln University, and holding a Distinguished Professorship at Antioch University.

James Farmer was a distinguished Civil Rights leader, who in 1942 established The Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He served as the National Director of CORE from 1961 to 1966. In May 1987, Mr. Farmer was presented the Hubert H. Humphrey Civil Rights Award at the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. On January 15, 1998, President Bill Clinton presented Dr. Farmer the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was also honored with the Excellence in Leadership Award by Virginia Power in January 1999. On July 9, 1999, Dr. Farmer died peacefully at Mary Washington Hospital.

# **James Farmer Scholars Program**

*“Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?’”  
Martin Luther King Jr.*

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of the James Farmer Scholars Program is to increase the number of students of color who have the academic potential to attempt and succeed in college.

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”  
Nelson Mandela*

## **OVERVIEW**

In 1987, Mary Washington College established the James Farmer Scholars Program, named for the noted civil rights leader, James Farmer. The purpose of the program is to increase the number of underrepresented youth from four local school divisions who, beginning in middle school, pursue a college preparatory program, succeed in it, and enroll in college. The focus of the program is not solely to recruit students for the University of Mary Washington, but to increase opportunities for underrepresented American students to enroll in and graduate from any institution of higher education, particularly public institutions in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Each year, twelve students are selected and designated James Farmer Scholars from each of four school divisions—Caroline, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Westmoreland. Up to six alternates may be selected from each school division each year. The University of Mary Washington funds the program, and each school division provides remuneration for school sponsors and transportation costs incurred by the Scholars for after-school meetings and visits to the University of Mary Washington. A director administers the program, and oversight for the program rests with the James Farmer Scholars Board comprised of college faculty/administrators and local school administrators and community associates.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To provide an academic enrichment program for students beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. To encourage leadership development and positive self-images.
3. To expose students to a variety of cultural and recreational activities.
4. To increase an awareness of the community, programs, leaders and resources.
5. To guide students in the selection of a community service project for life long participation
6. To provide tutoring to scholars when available to assist scholars in their academic progress.
7. To expose scholars to a various college and universities in the Commonwealth.
8. To provide guidance in selecting courses to prepare for college selection.
9. To expose scholars to various careers and occupational choices. Additional exposure to fields underrepresented by minorities.
10. To strengthen parental involvement through the school and the community.
11. To provide enrichment in writing and math skills.
12. To expose scholars to college life at UMW through specific programs and summer residential programs.
13. To provide courses in effective study skills, note-taking, test taking and time management.
14. \*To expose students to preparatory courses for Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude test (PSAT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).
15. To provide guidance on AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment selection.
16. To initiate the college admissions process by:  
Identifying a course of study  
Researching the admissions requirements for selected institutions  
Researching scholarships and financial aid opportunities
17. To assist students in the identification of selected colleges, and the submissions of applications.

## **PROGRAM DESIGN**

The program consists of two components: the academic year and the summer program. During the academic year scholars will meet with school sponsors and up to seven times a year at the University of Mary Washington.

Scholars will meet at the University of Mary Washington on Saturdays. The academic sessions will include classes to strengthen and/or reinforce skills in academic areas, leadership development, social development, college preparation and community involvement. The sessions will also include cultural and/or recreational activities. Invited guest will provide presentations to scholars regarding various topics.

### **Academic Year**

During the school year, Scholars meet twice a month at their schools with a school sponsor and up to seven times a year at University of Mary Washington.

#### **Saturday Program Meeting Dates:**

**September 23rd**  
**October 28th**  
**November 18th**  
**January 27th**  
**February 24th**  
**March 31st**  
**April 21st**

A typical Saturday Session schedule:

8:30 a.m.	Arrival / Announcements
8:40-12:30 p.m.	Interdisciplinary Classes
10:50 p.m.-12:45 p.m.	Rotating Lunches
1:00-1:50 p.m.	Classes, Activities or Workshops
2:00 p.m.	Wrap-up and dismissal

## Summer Program

The summer component of the James Farmer Scholars Program is a weeklong residential program in which Scholars live in the University of Mary Washington residence halls, take enrichment courses, and enjoy nightly social and educational activities. There is a fee for the summer component, which covers room and board.

### SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES

It is an honor and a privilege to be a James Farmer Scholar. To be a Scholar is to accept responsibility to maintain appropriate attitude, behavior, and academic performance worthy of the designation, James Farmer Scholar.

#### Academic Performance

Exemplary Status	A Scholar must maintain a A/B+ (3.5-4.0) average with no grade lower than a B.
Good Standing Status	A Scholar must maintain at least a B (3.0-3.4) average with no grade lower than a B.
Probationary Status	A Scholar who receives a grade lower than a 3.0 GPA is on probation.

A Scholar who does not demonstrate progress toward achieving good standing will be removed from the program.

To demonstrate progress: A scholars must demonstrate progression toward a 3.0 GPA or better by the close of the second semester.

#### Scholarly Behavior

***A Scholar must attend school regularly and on time.*** A Scholar who is consistently tardy or absent from school must establish a schedule for improvement with the School Sponsor.

#### ***Scholar Participation***

Scholars are expected to attend school regularly, attend after school sessions, Saturday sessions and special designated programs. Each Scholar is required to attend 5 of the 7 Saturday sessions. Scholars who do not make a compelling effort to participate in the program will be removed from the program. ***All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars are expected to attend at least 1 trip per academic year.***

Scholars are expected to read two books per academic year selected by the program as a part of their academic curriculum.

***A Scholar must assume responsibility for appropriate behavior at school, at school activities, and at program activities.*** A Scholar who is placed on suspension (in-school or out of school) will be removed from the program. Scholars receiving disciplinary referrals will be placed on probation and progress will be monitored for continued participation in the program.

Scholars who violate any of the program expectations or standards are subject to placement on probation or dismissal based on the severity of the violation to be determined by the program director.

### **Other Responsibilities**

A Scholar must exemplify the following characteristics: pride, honor, respect, and dignity.

A Scholar should be: an independent thinker, positive, and resist negative influence and pressure.

A Scholar must be willing to assist others when the need arises.

A Scholar must become knowledgeable of his/her heritage and be willing to share it with others.

A Scholar must be devoted to learning: show initiative, persevere, and accept challenges.

A Scholar must exemplify scholarly conduct in class: actively and meaningfully participate, turn in all assignments on time, and bring only appropriate materials to class.

A Scholar must be prompt for class, after-school sessions, and Saturday instructional meetings.

A Scholar must renew his/her commitment to the program annually.

### **Scholar Evaluation**

In March, each scholar will be evaluated on their performance throughout the academic year. This evaluation will be based on behavior, attendance, community engagement, and academic achievement. Scholars will be placed in one of the following categories: Outstanding, Satisfactory, Probation, or Dismissal. Students reaching the Outstanding Scholar Status will be invited to a celebration following the final Saturday Session of the year.

## **PARENT COUNCILS**

The Parent Council is an organization similar to the Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) found in many public school systems. Each of the four Parent Councils has its own officers, meeting schedule, and programs. Each Parent Council will select two representatives to form an Executive Committee to schedule meetings, activities and fund raising endeavors to benefit the goals of the James Farmer Scholars Program.

Membership in the James Farmer Parent Council is open not only to all parents who have children currently enrolled in the Program, but also to parents of students who have completed the program. A small fee is required each year by the Parent Council to support scholarships and activities for the scholars.

**ALL PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE PARENT COUNCIL.**

## **Agreement between UMW & Scholars and their Families**

### **As a James Farmer Scholar, I promise:**

1. To pursue a college-preparatory curriculum selected with the help of my parents and guidance counselor.
2. To maintain a 3.0 GPA or better.
3. To participate in the activities of the James Farmer Scholars Program.
4. To accept the responsibilities of a James Farmer Scholar in attitude and behavior, including dedication to my studies and to community involvement.
5. To abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by the James Farmer Scholars Director and Executive Board members at all sessions, events, activities, and social gatherings.
6. To complete and submit the common application for the University of Mary Washington before the end of their first semester of their senior year of high school.

### **As the parent or guardian of the James Farmer Scholar, I promise:**

1. To encourage my scholar to complete homework, to study for tests, and to be prepared in all subjects.
2. To provide a place and favorable conditions for my scholar to study.
3. To monitor my scholar's attendance at school and at James Farmer Scholars Program activities.
4. To advise and counsel my scholar in regard to his or her behavior, attitude, education, and future to the best of my ability.
5. To support the educational programs in which my scholar participates by attending school activities for parents and James Farmer Scholars Program events for parents.

**As the sponsoring institution for the James Farmer Scholars Program, University of Mary Washington promises:**

1. To provide, throughout the pre-college years, personal, individual guidance and academic counseling for each James Farmer Scholar.
2. To provide programming that brings James Farmer Scholars to the University Mary Washington campus and makes available to them the special facilities found there.
3. To advise and assist Scholars and their parents or guardians in seeking admission to colleges, including the completion of applications and financial aid forms.
4. To give special consideration to any James Farmer Scholar who applies for admission to University of Mary Washington, admitting all Scholars whose records, recommendations, and test scores indicate they can succeed academically at the College, and placing them in the highest possible priority for financial aid support.
5. Provide continued support to scholars attending the University of Mary Washington by offering entrance into the Student Transition Program (STP) as well as student employment opportunities, academic advising, coaching and mentoring.

## **Program Personnel**

### Representatives from University of Mary Washington

Mrs. Bianca S. Hightower, M.Ed, Assistant Director for Career and Professional Development & Director, James Farmer Scholars Program

Mrs. DiShanté Fryer, Assistant Director, James Farmer Scholars Program

Dr. Dianne Baker, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences – Westmoreland County

Dr. Janet Asper, Associate Professor of Chemistry – Caroline County

### Community Representatives

Mr. Xavier Richardson, Chairperson of the James Farmer Scholar Program – Fredericksburg County

### Representative Caroline Schools

Mrs. Angela Wright, Principal; Caroline Middle School – Caroline County

### Representative Spotsylvania County Schools

Mr. Rod Goode, Assistant Principal; Riverbend High School – Spotsylvania County

### Representative Fredericksburg City Schools

Ms. Marci Catlett, Deputy Superintendent for Fredericksburg City Public Schools

### Representative Westmoreland County Schools

Mrs. Joyce Clayton, General Supervisor of Westmoreland County Schools

## **2016 - 2017 James Farmer Scholars School Sponsors**

### **Fredericksburg City Schools**

Walker Grant Middle School - Mrs. Demetrice Silver

James Monroe High School - Mrs. Demetrice Silver

### **Caroline County Schools**

Caroline Middle School - Ms. Phyllis Lamar

Caroline High School – Ms. Omega Moore

### **Westmoreland County**

Montross Middle School - Ms. Leigh-Ann Crim

Washington & Lee High School - Mrs. Joan Weldon

### **Spotsylvania County**

County Coordinators- Mr. Roderick Goode & Ms. Ayesha Qasimi

Post Oak Middle School –Ms. Evangerline Wormley

Ni River Middle School – Ms. Helen Kenney

Freedom Middle School – Ms. Lillian Williams

Thornburg Middle School – Ms. Deborah McMullen

Battlefield Middle School - Ms. Rose Marie McGill

Chancellor Middle School - Ms. Renee Beverly

Spotsylvania Middle School – Mr. William Nave

Chancellor High School - Ms. Andrea Chew

Courtland High School - Ms. Vicki Clinkscales

Spotsylvania High School – Mr. Shawn Kelley

Massaponax High School – Ms. Yolanda Ashlock

Riverbend High School – Ms. Felicia Johnson

## **James Farmer Scholar Contract**

### **As a James Farmer Scholar, I promise:**

1. To pursue a college-preparatory curriculum selected with the help of my parents and guidance counselor.
2. To maintain a 3.0 GPA, or to make satisfactory progress toward that goal.
3. To participate in the activities of the James Farmer Scholars Program.
4. To accept the responsibilities of a James Farmer Scholar in attitude and behavior, including dedication to my studies and to community involvement.
5. To abide by the policies and guidelines set forth by the James Farmer Scholars Director and Executive Board members at all sessions, events, activities, and social gatherings.
6. To complete and submit the common application for the University of Mary Washington before the end of their first semester of their senior year of high school.

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1. To encourage my scholar to complete homework, to study for tests, and to be prepared in all subjects.
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3. To monitor my scholar's attendance at school and at James Farmer Scholars Program activities.
4. To advise and counsel my scholar in regard to his or her behavior, attitude, education, and future to the best of my ability.
5. To support the educational programs in which my scholar participates by attending school activities for parents and James Farmer Scholars Program events for parents.

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Scholar Signature

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Parent Signature