



James Madison Center
for Civic Engagement
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kara Dillard

Interim Executive

Director

Assistant Professor,

School of Communication

Studies

DEMOCRACY BEYOND BARRIERS

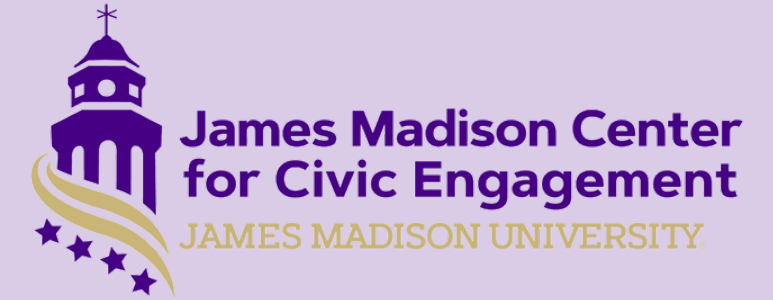


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Educate and inspire
people to address public
issues and cultivate the
common good.



Martin Family Democracy Fund



- **Expand the electorate** to include greater voice from **historically marginalized groups**
- **Educate** the campus and broader **Harrisonburg/Rockingham communities** on **immigration issues**,
- Help **remove barriers** to deeper democratic engagement, and
- **Collaborate** with the local immigrant and refugee communities on **civic learning** and **democratic engagement opportunities**.

Facilitated Conversations



Civic Engagement Beyond Voting & Citizenship (November 2nd, 2022)

Partnered with LAXC and Scholars Latino Initiative

Purpose: Discussing barriers to democratic engagement for undocumented and refugee communities

Latinx in U.S. Democracy (September 28th, 2022)

Facilitated with Dr. Torres, Political Science

Purpose: Learning and discussing the diversity and political complexity of the Latinx community and what that means for democratic engagement

Religion & Civic Engagement (December 1st, 2022)

Purpose: Discuss how religion can shape democratic engagement among students, immigrant communities, and religious minorities in the U.S.

Civic Courage (November 14th, 2023)

Partnered with JMU German Program

Purpose: Discuss situations where individuals or groups of people do not feel safe and secure to speak up about issues following a film on the White Rose student-led group that was persecuted for speaking up and related to groups in today's political climate in a respectful approach.



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Community Building Events



National Immigrants Day (October 28th, 2022)

Purpose: To celebrate the immigrant community through educational and informational resources

SOMOS JMU Conference (October 28th, 2022)

Purpose: To learn from a civil rights leader on immigration advocacy, including marginalized groups in the electorate, and how to better advocate for justice within our community

Hispanic Heritage Festival (2022, 2023)

Purpose: To highlight all contributions from the immigrant community and to build bridges with our local community



TEST-ing Your Citizenship Knowledge (October 25th, 2023)

Purpose: To collaborate with on campus and off campus resources as it relates to a pathway to citizenship many in the Harrisonburg community utilize and share with campus.



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Other Projects Completed/ In the Works

- Podcast episodes to emphasize how government spending affects its non-english speaking/ immigrant communities & how ineligible voters feel during election season
- Articles written about DACA and other contemporary immigrant policies
- Valley Politics 101 Workshop with the Community Engagement & Volunteer Center
- Tabling about contemporary immigration policies and the naturalization process
- “What is a Sanctuary city?” presentation
- “Overcoming Democratic Barriers: Civic Education for all” presentation for JMU Diversity Conference
- Skyline Literacy Civics, Voting, and Voter Education Presentation
- Black Immigration collaboration AAAD/LAXC



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Dr. Kara Dillard, Interim Executive Director

Gabriela Leija-Hernandez, Madison Center Post-Graduate Fellow

Caroline Woodson ('26), Campus Vote Project Democracy Fellow

Emma Sellers ('26) Democracy Fellow