

**Center for Student Diversity (CSD)  
Summer/Fall Support for BIPOC students**

**Summer 2020:**

- Individual Students:
  - CSD continued to meet one-on-one with students throughout the summer as they needed. Due to the abrupt halt of on-campus classes in March, the Pandemic and the protests regarding police brutality students expressed emotional turmoil.
- Student Organization:
  - President's Council: Our new Assistant Director, Roxana Aguirre will be leading the President's Council. Throughout the summer she met with the Presidents of the Diversity organizations (Cultural, Identity, and Faith) individually, to see how the CSD can best support them in this upcoming year. The President's Council will continue to meet (virtually) throughout academic year.
- Summer Initiatives:
  - PLUS 2020: CSD hosted a virtual summer pre-orientation program, Preparing for Life as a University Student (PLUS). This program included 33 incoming Freshmen, 9 upperclassmen who served as counselors and 1 recent May 2020 graduate who served as a Head counselor. Students participated in mock classes with W&M faculty, attended workshops and panel discussions, engaged in social activities to get to know one another and participated in small group discussions with their PLUS Counselors each night to answer any questions or concerns about life as a William & Mary student and preparing for college.

**Fall 2020:**

- Individual Students:
  - CSD will continue to meet with students one-on-one. CSD will use the 10 to 8 platform for online booking. Students can view our website, social media, or signature panel to schedule an appointment with a member of the CSD staff.
  - CSD will host virtual programming throughout the semester to keep students engaged in meaningful dialogue, diversity training, cultural celebrations and academic, cultural and social activities.
  - The CSD and mediation space is open:
    - Masks must be worn to enter and while in the CSD, unless you are eating.
    - Maximum Capacity of 12 people at any one time.
    - Open hours for the CSD will be modified to Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9 am - 5 pm.
    - All meetings with the CSD staff will be held virtually. To schedule an appointment, utilize the 10-8 portal.
    - Anyone attending activities/events in the CSD will check-in and check-out at the front desk, have their temperature taken before entering, wear a mask, adhere to social distancing, and maximum capacity restrictions.
- Student Organization:
  - Black Student Organization (BSO): Shené V. Owens, Associate Director, serves as the advisor to BSO and has been working with them to rework their

signature programming, as well as process their feelings and action items moving forward in the wake of racial injustices brought to light across the country.

- Fall Initiatives:
  - The Barbershop: Dr. Kimberly Weatherly, Director, has been working with a group of male leaders on campus to host a monthly “Barbershop” an initiative for male-identifying students of color to gather as a community, talk about politics, Black Lives Matter, academics, relationships, music, sports and life at W&M and receive a free haircut. In the Spring 2020, due to Covid, this program shifted to an online platform.
  - Brown Table Talk: A new initiative starting Fall 2020. A space for women of color to speak their truth and share their lived experiences. An exchange of dialogue within a judgement free zone. Topics will include: Women in media, maintaining relationships, pop culture, increasing your networking, and manifesting goals.
  - PLUS, yearlong program: There will be monthly workshops and meet-ups for PLUS 2020 participants. Workshops will be open to all first-year students, the meetups will be exclusive to those who participated in plus during the summer. This is a way for the students to remain connected as well as to further support them throughout their first year.
  - Cultural/Identity Months: CSD is creating a calendar of events to celebrate the various cultural and identity months. CSD will partner with both student organizations and academic departments to create a well-rounded experience.
  - Parent & Family Connection: We are hosting a virtual reception for parents & families of students of color and identity. We want to make sure that we empower the parents & families to aid their student's success

### **Concerns:**

- Isolation while social distancing: A concern was brought up regarding having to eat alone and the impact on someone who struggles with an eating disorder.
- Proximity to Colonial Williamsburg: Students are concerned the W&M is an open campus therefore, people who have not been tested can enter campus.
- In person classes: having to wear mask for long periods of time
- In person classes: students attending but the professor is virtual
- Fully remote: Upperclassmen were concerned that we would switch to fully remote (like other campuses have in the past week) before they return.
- Fully remote: Are students moving back to campus just to leave again due to a Covid spread.
- Parent concern: Incoming freshmen (POC) being able to connect with other POC virtually