

WHY 2026?

- o Understanding what the current moment calls for
- Understanding the significance of our 250th anniversary
- Understanding the urgency of the demographic cliff

GOALS



1. Expand W&M's Reach





William & Mary aims to address global challenges, forge dynamic partnerships to fuel positive change and model democratic ideals to extend its influence in the world.



2. Educate for Impact





William & Mary will reimagine the liberal arts and professional education in the 21st century to ensure the lifelong success of our graduates.



3. Evolve to Excel





William & Mary will embrace change to achieve our full potential in environmental and financial sustainability, in diversity, equity and inclusion, and in operational excellence.

INITIATIVES











Challenge

- Approx. 85M jobs will be displaced by 2025, and 97M new jobs will be created.
- The top growing jobs will be data analysts and scientists, artificial intelligence, machine learning and big data specialists.
- Employers in every field have an even greater need for "business translators" who can integrate knowledge from diverse fields and disciplines.
- 89% of employers say that building data fluency in every domain is a top priority.



We will lead....

 William & Mary will lead in the evolution of the liberal arts and sciences by integrating computational thinking and data fluency into a bold and dynamic learning experience that advances inquiry, discovery and innovation.

Pride Points

- W&M graduates more students, per capita, with computer science degrees than most leading universities in Virginia.
- Data collection, synthesis and application to realworld issues are a hallmark of a W&M education.
 - GRI, Center for Geospatial Analysis, VIMS, IIC, GeoLab ...







Challenge

- Approx. 74% of natural disasters between 2001 and 2018 were water-related, including droughts and floods. The frequency and intensity of such events are only expected to increase with climate change.
- In our region alone, water levels are a foot and a half higher than they were a century ago. They are expected to rise another 5 feet by 2100.



We will lead....

 William & Mary will lead in finding innovative solutions that ensure the resilience of the world's oceans, coasts and waterways.

Pride Points

- W&M has one of the world's premier marine science institutes, which partners with top international, business and governmental organizations on highimpact research.
- W&M's VIMS is ranked among top institutions in U.S. for best schools with marine science degrees.
- Beyond VIMS, W&M has deep expertise across a range of related disciplines: VCPC and IIC, and more.







Challenge

- 64% of people in the U.S. lack the ability to have constructive and civil debates about issues they agree on.
- 69% of people trust our education institutions up
 3% from last year.
- 64% of Americans believe U.S. democracy is "in crisis and at risk of failing."



We will lead....

 William & Mary will lead essential efforts to practice and promote democratic ideals in the pursuit of a more perfect union.

Pride Points

- W&M's graduate program in United States Colonial history ranks first in the country.
- W&M was instrumental in the founding of our democracy – both the best and worst of that origin story happened here. We are united in the commitment to tell our nation's origin stories fully and honestly.
- o The Williamsburg Bray School Project, Brafferton anniversary, Lemon Project, and more are yielding unique and powerful discoveries.
- W&M's Student/Faculty ratio creates robust opportunities for dialogue and shared inquiry.







Challenge

- Employers are looking for "accountable problemsolvers" – critical thinkers who adapt well to change.
- More than 70% of employers want new college graduate hires to have a work-based learning experience.
- More than one-third of internships are unpaid, and lowincome students cannot afford them.
- Women and minorities are significantly underrepresented among paid interns.
- Competition is fierce to gain an internship although 60% of students who interned were later hired full-time with the company.



We will lead....

 William & Mary will lead in preparing lifelong learners to navigate rapid change — and to thrive from their first job to their last.

Pride Points

- W&M is ranked No. 1 in the U.S. for internships, No. 4 for study abroad.
- For the Bold built one of the strongest alumni networks in the country – a resource to tap for mentoring, career development and experiential learning during college and after graduation.
- 2/3 of W&M undergraduate majors have a creditbearing internship on the books.
- W&M is No. 7 among public universities with the highest
 40-year return on investments for low-income students.
- Our graduating classes are hired, on average, by 300 to 400 different organizations annually.





