



June 18, 2020

### Libraries Faculty Call for Removing Confederate Names on JMU Buildings

One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequities, as an antiracist. There is no in-between safe space of "not racist." The claim of "not racist" neutrality is a mask for racism.

— Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Antiracist*

As stewards of this university's [historical record](#)<sup>1</sup>, the undersigned Libraries faculty recognize the monument to white supremacy that the leaders of this institution erected through the renaming of campus buildings after Confederate figures in 1917 and 1918. We share the sentiments put forward by faculty from the Department of Political Science in their "[Call for Removing Names of Confederates on JMU Buildings](#)" and join a growing body of faculty, students, staff, and alumni in calling on current leadership to take decisive action and immediately remove the names on Ashby, Jackson, and Maury Halls.

How JMU chooses to respond to calls for justice will be reflected in the record of our institution's history. Black lives matter. We have a moral obligation to stop feigning institutional innocence and to take action, without any further delay.

Signed (in alphabetical order):

Andrea Adams, Associate Professor  
Greg Brown, Assistant Professor  
Liz Chenevey, Assistant Professor  
Kathy Clarke, Professor  
Jody Fagan, Professor  
Brian Flota, Associate Professor  
Rebecca French, Assistant Professor  
Kevin Hegg, Assistant Professor  
Steven Holloway, Associate Professor  
Elaine Kaye, Assistant Professor  
Jennifer Keach, Professor  
Mark Lane, Assistant Professor  
Jessica Lantz, Assistant Professor  
Juhong Christie Liu, Associate Professor  
Julia Merkel, Associate Professor

Kate Morris, Assistant Professor  
Aaron Noland, Assistant Professor  
Hillary Ostermiller, Assistant Professor  
Elizabeth Price, Assistant Professor  
Sarah Roth-Mullet, Assistant Professor  
Carolyn Schubert, Associate Professor  
Yasmeen Shorish, Associate Professor  
Kristen Shuyler, Associate Professor  
Eric Stauffer, Assistant Professor  
Brian Sullivan, Associate Professor  
Alyssa Valcourt, Assistant Professor  
Stefanie Warlick, Professor  
Malia Willey, Associate Professor  
Grace Wilson, Assistant Professor  
Nicole Wilson, Associate Professor

Note: This statement is endorsed by the individuals who sign it, not by any academic unit, office, center, or other entity affiliated with James Madison University. We are confident that other members of our community support this statement, but they may not have been able to indicate their support on short notice.

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<sup>1</sup> Report to the Virginia Normal School Board. June 30, 1917, Julian Burruss, President, State Normal School for Women, Harrisonburg, VA.