

5-1-2014

## Letter from the Editor

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### Recommended Citation

Mahoney, Kerrigan R. (2014) "Letter from the Editor," *The William & Mary Educational Review*. Vol. 2 : Iss. 2 , Article 1.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wm.edu/wmer/vol2/iss2/1>

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## From the Editor...

Dear readers,

As a student and educator, I see the impact of fear and doubt all around me. The fear of failure, the fear of not being as good as one's peers, the fear of change, the fear of conflict, the fear of neglecting family or friends or work or research. The fear of being wrong. I have shared these fears. As much as I know that fear can be paralyzing, sometimes I give into it. Sometimes this is the right decision. Sometimes it leads to missed opportunities and missed connections. I have recently found that as much as I look inside and feel fear and look around and see doubt, I also see strength. I see risk taking. I see determination. From sharing an opinion in class to submitting an original piece of writing for publication, fear dissipates as we find strength in each other, as we collaborate instead of needing to do everything on our own, and as we look for the positive in ourselves and in each other.

Our 3rd Edition of *The William and Mary Educational Review* opens with three interviews by and about students at The William and Mary School of Education. The generosity of these students in sharing their stories serves as an inspiration: Jeff, Christy, and Luyao took a risk to share their personal stories of determination, perseverance, and success with all of us. Their stories serve as a reminder of the strength we have as individuals and a community: all of our stories are important as collectively they help to define The College of William and Mary School of Education. They are also a testament to the power of writing and publication. By utilizing forums such as this one to celebrate our diverse stories, opinions, and research, we can come together as a community, grow our connections with each other, and look for future opportunities for sharing and collaboration.

In the last two years *The William and Mary Educational Review* has grown significantly. In our first edition, we published six pieces. The current edition has more than doubled that number to 13. Our growth is thanks to the willingness of the students of our Executive Board, Editorial Board, and Peer Reviewers who volunteer their time, energy, and expertise to the process. It is also thanks to the

students who were willing to take a risk, overcome fear, and have their voices, opinions, and research put out on a public stage to advance education, understanding, and a sense of community. The 13 pieces in this edition represent a wide array of student voices and perspectives on education. I hope you will read them and celebrate with me in the success of my peers.

Sincerely,

*Kerrigan Mahoney*  
Editor-in-Chief