

Meet the Director



Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott, Associate Vice President for Inclusive Excellence, has served Mary Baldwin University in her current role and as director/dean of African-American and Multicultural Affairs for 21 years. She has demonstrated expertise in student retention, development, and engagement. She is committed to helping students become their best selves inside and outside of the classroom. Rev. Cornett-Scott is a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy & Religion.

If you would like to participate in the PERSIST program, please contact Rev. Andrea Cornett-Scott at ascott@marybaldwin.edu.



Special Opportunities

Ubuntu Mentor Program

Ubuntu is a concept that exemplifies an African proverb based on the idea that "it is through others that one attains selfhood." This unique Mary Baldwin University mentoring program pairs first-year students with student leaders who offer academic, emotional, and social support and positive reinforcement.



SistaFriends Alumnae Mentor Program

SistaFriends is a mentoring program that facilitates meaningful connections between students and MBU alumnae. Mentors spend time with students when classes are not in session, on an online network, and at campus events. SistaFriends supports and sustains the work and traditions of the Office of Inclusive Excellence.

Civic Engagement

PERSIST scholars will be enrolled in PHIL 140, a general education course that has a 3-credit community service component. They will have the opportunity to work within our community. Two signature community projects are Take Back the Night—focusing on Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention and Black Baby Doll Day Project—focusing on building Self Esteem for African American girls.

P.E.R.S.I.T

Promoting Excellence and Reinforcing Success in Student Transitions



Mary Baldwin University
Staunton, VA 24401

<https://go.marybaldwin.edu/inclusive-excellence/persist/>



TRANSISTION

Year 1

During their freshman year, PERSIST scholars will meet in Harambee activities, where they will develop a plan for reaching their educational goals. They will learn to identify their skills, values, and experiences, and understand how their unique presence adds value to the MBU experience. These new students will make a commitment to diversity programming by serving as student ambassadors for the Office for Inclusive Excellence.

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Year 3

During their junior year, PERSIST scholars will continue to meet monthly and to establish themselves as highly involved campus and classroom leaders. They will work with the African-American Alumni Network to plan and execute the Sankofa Leadership Conference, an annual event designed to consider the past and to imagine the future for African-American students at Mary Baldwin University.



SERVE

Year 2

Second year PERSIST scholars will be exposed to the world of service through leadership by exploring what it means to be a global citizen. They will serve as Ubuntu Mentors and PERSIST staff members and they will facilitate the work of the African-American Student Recruitment Council.



LIVE

Year 4

PERSIST scholars will focus on preparing students for life after MBU. Students will receive individualized career and professional coaching and learn how to navigate the job and graduate school application process. Participants will learn how to manage their personal finances and live independently.



I am because we are and since we are, therefore I am complete.

African Proverb

PERSIST is a cohort program for male and female students who are not members of the Ida B. Wells Living Learning Community but who desire to be actively engaged in programming hosted by the Office of Inclusive Excellence. PERSIST was created to foster inclusive excellence. Students are enrolled in a section of PHIL 140 taught by the PERSIST program director. This general education course fulfills the community service requirement needed for graduation. PERSIST scholars are invited to take part in many leadership and fun activities along with the Ida B. Wells students like the Annual Kwanzaa Celebration, the Sankofa Leadership Conference and the Apple Day ReMix the Hymn contest. They are also assigned Ubuntu Mentors and Sista Friends. The program was launched in fall 2012 with a cohort of 16 African-American first-year scholars. This program promotes the interaction of African American students across the university. PERSIST teaches students how to maximize their impact on the Mary Baldwin University campus and the broader community.