

WHAT IS 4-VA?

Established in 2010 upon the recommendation of the Governor’s Higher Education Commission and the Governor’s Commission on Economic Development and Job Creation, 4-VA is a unique partnership between Mason and five other Virginia Universities – JMU, ODU, VCU, VT, UVA, UWM, & VMI. It was designed to promote collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university and improve efficiencies in higher education.



The 4-VA Consortium

FIND OUT MORE

<https://4va.gmu.edu>
www.facebook.com/4vaMason

Today, 4-VA supports faculty throughout Mason as well as across the Commonwealth with the financial resources necessary to develop programs and pedagogies that improve higher education in Virginia.

A LOOK BACK AT 18-19



4-VA GRANTS ARE OFFERED FOR:

- ❖ **Collaborative Research** - This grant program improves research competitiveness within the Commonwealth and at Mason by providing funding for faculty to engage in pilot research that could be used as a springboard for subsequent, major federal grants. Collaboration with a researcher at one of the 4-VA partner institutions is strongly desired, as is active dissemination of the research findings. Research proposals could also directly lead to course redesign. Funding amounts range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per grant, not including complementary funding that may be supplied by partner institutions.
- ❖ **Course Redesign** - This project focuses on innovative course redesign that integrates Open Educational Resources (OER) into the current curriculum to provide lively, current, digital resources which can reduce textbook costs for students, improve teaching and learning outcomes, and build faculty community as teams work together to create dynamic course material. Of particular interest are courses that count in the Mason Core, have high enrollment numbers, are required courses for majors, or carry high textbook costs.
- ❖ **Course Sharing** - Utilizing the Telepresence rooms throughout the 4-VA system, Mason students are able to take classes offered at other schools while Mason faculty teach classes which are delivered to students enrolled at 4-VA partner universities. This opens up new worlds of academic offerings to students throughout the Commonwealth.
- ❖ **Degree Completion** - Recognizing and nurturing programs that pave the way for students to achieve success in their pursuit of higher education important to the 4-VA mission, aligning closely with Mason’s strategic plan and that of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. 4-VA also seeks to support traditionally underserved populations including veterans, adult learners, and first generation college attendees. Working together – through our partner schools, our state and local leaders, and area businesses — 4-VA brings life to educational resources for the greater good.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

Mason, VT and UVA are each recognized and valued for their unique strengths and assets. Consequently, it’s not surprising to conclude that when these three institutions collaborate on a project, the results are impressive. Such was the case with a recent 4-VA grant to these top-tier universities for a project entitled “ReSounding the Archives” (RtA).

Mason’s lead PI Kelly Schrum identified the genesis of the project during the 100th anniversary of WWI to bring the newly digitized music of that time period to life. The results were impressive!



“Each institution was able to contribute an integral element: UVA had access to WWI sheet music in their archives and created a research class around the project; Mason had the performers, digital history education specialists, and website developers; and VT contributed sheet music, research, and performers,”
--- Kelly Schrum

DEGREE COMPLETION EFFORTS

- ✓ Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) undergraduate liberal arts degree program for adult learners -- providing a streamlined path to completion of traditional academic requirements leading to the baccalaureate degree.
- ✓ Academic Advising Symposium
- ✓ Support for the NOVA/Mason ADVANCE initiative for pathway creation from the two-year associates program to a four-year degree

SPECIAL PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

- ✓ Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference Support
- ✓ Gen Ed Summit
- ✓ Aspiring Scientist’s Summer Internship Program
- ✓ International Fellows