

**RETIREMENT OF TRACY L. CROSS
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Tracy L. Cross, Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education, served as the Executive Director of the William & Mary Center for Gifted Education for 15 years. His leadership was instrumental in developing innovative programming and fostering an inclusive environment for gifted and talented students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Professor Cross is a graduate of the University of Tennessee, receiving a PhD in Educational Psychology, Ed.S. in Educational Psychology and Guidance, MS in Educational Psychology and BS in Education between 1982 and 1988. He went on to serve as an assistant professor of psychology at Louisiana Tech University, then at the University of Wyoming. Professor Cross held a wide variety of roles in the Teachers College at Ball State University from 1993 to 2009. He began as the Coordinator of Research and became chair of the Educational Psychology Department before serving as Executive Director of the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities for nine years. He then was named Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Research, and Assessment in the Teachers College. He was named the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Gifted Studies in 2000.

Professor Cross came to the School of Education at William & Mary in 2009 as the Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education and the Executive Director of the Center for Gifted Education. He was responsible for the two doctoral programs (EdD and PhD) in Gifted Education Administration in the Educational, Policy, Planning, and Leadership department. In addition to recruiting, managing and teaching in the doctoral programs, Professor Cross directed the activities of the Center for Gifted Education, an internationally recognized organization serving the needs of gifted students and educators. During his time at W&M, the Center expanded its Precollegiate Learner Programs to offer residential summer academic programs, including a Virginia Governor's School and Camp Launch, which has brought more than a thousand high-ability, low-income students from our region to W&M's campus. Camp Launch has created a pipeline for potential diverse undergraduates at the university. The Center has also expanded its professional development offerings to educators in the region and around the world. It continues to be the top producer of curriculum for gifted students.

In his direction of the doctoral programs in Gifted Education Administration, Professor Cross oversaw the reorganization of the EdD program from an on-campus program to the hybrid Executive EdD, attracting professionals from across the country. Through his recruiting, the diversity of the two doctoral programs saw a two-fold increase in students of color. Alumni of the PhD program have gone on to win research awards and develop their own centers or research laboratories.

Under Professor Cross's direction, research at the Center grew exponentially, with a new emphasis on psychology. He developed a close collaboration with the Dublin City University Centre for Talented Youth, Ireland, which resulted in numerous publications and presentations at international conferences. He was invited to carry out research through two Fulbright Scholar Awards from Dublin City University in 2015-2016 and in 2023.

In support of research and program activities, Professor Cross has brought approximately \$10 million to the Center in his 15 years as Executive Director. In 2015, Professor Cross created the Institute for Research on the Suicide of Gifted Students as a component of the Center. He was active in W&M's suicide prevention efforts, including support of the Campus Connect peer training program and the Suicide Prevention Coalition. While at W&M, Professor Cross served on numerous School of Education and university-wide committees.

With a research agenda focused on the psychological aspects of giftedness, Professor Cross has a strong record of scholarly productivity. He has authored or edited more than 14 books, has more than 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has presented at hundreds of conferences. He was identified as the most productive researcher in the field of gifted education over a 60-year period. He has won every major award of the National Association for Gifted Children, including their Distinguished Scholar Award. Professor Cross has served as editor of every major research journal in the field. In 2010, he was awarded the Mensa Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to the study of intelligence.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the William & Mary Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Tracy L. Cross; expresses its appreciation for his many contributions to William & Mary; and approves, with gratitude for his 15 years of service, a change in status from the Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education to Jody and Layton Smith Professor of Psychology and Gifted Education, Emeritus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of delivered to Professor Cross with best wishes from a grateful Board for his years of dedicated service to William & Mary.