

Joseph James Morelli Bicentennial Fellowship

The Joseph James Morelli Bicentennial Fellowship (JJMF) at the Curry School of Education and Human Development at the University of Virginia (UVA) is an endowed fellowship to support doctoral students whose scholarship will focus on dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia. This fellowship is created in memory of Joseph James Morelli, who thrived once he received appropriate, effective accommodations, for his dyslexia, during high school and college. The JJMF recipient will receive tuition, fees, and an expense stipend to support his/her research work. The Morelli Fellowship builds upon the work of the Joseph James Morelli Scholarship, out of the Park City (Utah) Community Foundation, which has granted \$96,000 to 40 college students nationwide who have learning differences, such as dyslexia.

More specifically, the student(s) receiving this fellowship will study the transition of young adults with learning disabilities from high school to college. It is a population that needs recognition for what has already been achieved, despite struggles, anxiety, and often late diagnoses. There is a need for attention, support, and a voice. The disparity among colleges and post-secondary schools is highly variable; many students go without accommodations even after having effective IEPs in high school. These students are creative, out of the box thinkers, and often brilliant. Yet they struggle within prescriptive, structured, standardized systems and methods of educating, often preventing them from fulfilling their dreams.

The Curry School of Education and Human Development at the University of Virginia is well suited to house this important work. The Curry School is providing a pathway for the next generation of educators and leaders to tackle the most complex and daunting societal and educational challenges, such as dyslexia and other learning differences. Curry focuses on equipping its graduates with the skills needed to research important areas in the learning differences field, focusing on the whole child/student and incorporating an interdisciplinary approach. Students at the Curry School learn and work in collaborative environments with their peers, professional staff, and world-class faculty. They engage in study, research, and hands-on practice under the guidance of professors who are global thought leaders. Curry students take a deep dive into complex societal issues and emerge as purposeful agents for change. The Curry School of Education and Human Development at UVA is ranked as the #16 education school in the United States, according to *U.S. News and World Report* (2019); Curry's graduate program in Special Education is ranked #4. Curry offers undergraduate through doctorate coursework on-Grounds in Charlottesville, in regional learning centers in Northern Virginia, Richmond, and Hampton Roads, and online. Curry's 24 programs roll up into five areas: K-12 education, health and well-being, positive youth development, research and higher education, and policy and leadership.

The Curry School of Education and Human Development is prepared to meet the challenges in education and society head on. Curry's overarching goal is to promote human development across a broad array of settings by preparing leaders and practitioners in the fields of education, health, wellbeing, and human services. Curry accomplishes this by enrolling and graduating inspired, ambitious students, hiring and empowering proven, productive faculty, and producing research that influences policy and creates impact.

All donations for the Morelli Bicentennial Fellowship will be eligible for 50% matching funds from UVA: <https://curry.virginia.edu/jjm>.

For more information, please contact:

Jennifer G. Cornell
Director of Development
Curry School of Education and Human Development at UVA
804-240-8180
jgcornell@virginia.edu

Barbara Wirostko Morelli, M.D.
Executive Director
Joseph James Morelli Scholarship
347-453-1521
barbara.wirostko@gmail.com

October 2018