

\$15 Million+ and Growing Fast

The cost of Virginia's higher-ed DEI bureaucracy is spinning out of control.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Virginia's 15 public four-year universities paid its Diversity, Equity & Inclusion administrators more than \$15 million in salaries in 2020, according to a new report, "Should Virginians Pay for University "Diversity" Leftism?"

And DEI spending exploded the following year, 2021, at the two universities for which data is available: 119% at James Madison University and 66% at the University of Virginia. So found the report, which was published by the Virginia Association of Scholars and funded by The Jefferson Council and The Spirit of VMI alumni organizations.

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JAMES BACON

University (2020)	Total Salaries	Count of DEI Admin	Count > \$200K	Count \$100K-200K	Count <\$100K
Christopher Newport University	\$ 110,376.00	1	0	1	0
Eastern Virginia Medical School	\$ 719,003.00	7	1	1	5
George Mason University	\$ 1,364,809.00	20	0	5	15
James Madison University	\$ 2,418,369.00	31	0	7	24
Longwood University	\$ 188,543.00	4	0	0	4
Norfolk State University	\$ 152,444.00	2	0	1	1
Old Dominion University	\$ 803,457.00	13	0	0	13
Radford University	\$ 265,260.00	5	0	0	5
University of Mary Washington	\$ 455,256.00	6	0	1	5
University of Virginia	\$ 4,149,732.00	38	3	13	22
University of Virginia's College at Wise	\$ 33,500.00	1	0	0	1
Virginia Tech	\$ 4,043,786.00	47	2	9	36
Virginia State University	-	-	-	-	-
Virginia Military Institute	-	-	-	-	-
William and Mary College	\$ 346,100.00	5	0	1	4
Grand Total	\$ 15,0501,635.00	180	6	39	135

DEI Bureaucracy Overview: Virginia 4-Year Institutions

UVa was the biggest spender. In 2021 its DEI bureaucracy numbered 77 employees and cost \$6.9 million in salaries. JMU had 65 DEI employees whose salaries totaled \$5.3 million. In 2020 Virginia Tech ranked No.2 statewide in DEI spending, with 47 staff costing \$4 million in salaries.

In 2020 Virginia State University, a historically Black university, and the Virginia Military Institute, a senior military college, were the only two institutions without a

DEI staffer. VMI hired a DEI director in 2021.

Those numbers represent only the most visible of the costs associated with DEI, states the study. "The method used to produce these estimates was conservative: It considered only salaries of public university administrators whose positions are explicitly devoted to some component of DEI - that is, to 'diversity' and/or 'equity' and/or 'inclusion.'" The estimates do not incorporate the cost of employee benefits, DEI training, campus events, or departmental-level DEI activities borne by faculty members, and they omit the numbers for Virginia Commonwealth University,

the figures for which were not available.

Money devoted to DEI salaries alone in 2021 could have funded more than 1,100 full-tuition scholarships for Virginia students in financial need, the study said.

The ideology behind DEI views the world through the lens of race, sex, gender, and sexual identity, dividing society into oppressors and oppressed, between the privileged and the marginalized.

Some costs of DEI are impossible to quantify in dollar terms, the study said. "The real cost of DEI in higher education is its attack on critical thinking and its subversion of the university itself. ... DEI represents the ideological capture of the university by the progressive left."

"Every lawmaker needs to pay attention to this study," said James A. Bacon, executive director of The Jefferson Council. "The DEI bureaucracy is growing out of control, and its influence is pernicious. Mandatory DEI statements -- ideological loyalty statements -- are antithetical to free speech. And the enforcement of DEI ideology through administrative sanctions and social pressure threatens to turn our universities into intellectual monocultures."

To mitigate harm the study recommends:

Defunding ideological centers and programs.

Prohibiting mandatory training in political ideology.

Prohibiting "diversity statements" in hiring and promotion.

Imposing budgetary constraints.

Prohibiting DEI general education requirements.

Providing full transparency for DEI spending.

Delivering biannual updates to the legislature on the progress of reform efforts.

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