

https://www.breezejmu.org/news/jmu-s-comprehensive-fee-one-of-highest-in-virginia/article_567197d6-ca0a-11e9-8a68-e39a2f15d005.html

JMU's comprehensive fee one of highest in Virginia

Katelyn Waltemyer | The Breeze Aug 29, 2019



Non-academic facilities funded through the comprehensive fee include buildings like UREC and the University Health Center.

Breeze File Photo

For all public four-year institutions in Virginia, a segment of tuition goes toward a mandatory non-educational and general fee, or as JMU calls it — the comprehensive fee. JMU's comprehensive fee is one of the highest non-E&G fees in the state, but it allows the university to construct, renovate and provide high-quality and high-tech infrastructure.

Other institutions about the size of JMU, like Virginia Tech and George Mason University, have significantly lower mandatory non-E&G fees. VT's is \$2,096, and GMU's is \$3,504, while JMU's sits at \$4,956. JMU's fee has six categories where money is allocated. The fee goes toward non-

academic auxiliaries, excluding room and board.

The largest component is athletics, which takes up \$2,058 per student, and the second largest is for maintaining and operating non-academic facilities at \$883 per person. JMU has the fifth highest comprehensive fee — or mandatory non-E&G fee — in Virginia, but Charlie King, senior vice president of administration and finance, argues that schools with fewer funds going toward this fee don't have the same quality facilities or services.



In-State and Out-of-State Undergraduate Tuition, Required Fees and Room & Board for Virginia's State-Supported Institutions of Higher Education, 2019-20

Rank	In-State Tuition and Mandatory E&G Fees		Out-of-State Tuition and Mandatory E&G Fees		Mandatory Non-E&G Fees		Average Room and Board ⁽¹⁾		Total In-State		Total Out-of-State	
1	CWM	\$ 17,570	UVA	\$ 47,478	VMI	\$ 9,834	CWM	\$ 12,926	CWM	\$ 36,554	UVA	\$ 61,665
2	UVA	\$ 14,148	CWM	\$ 40,796	CWM	\$ 6,058	CNU	\$ 11,760	VMI	\$ 28,884	CWM	\$ 59,780
3	VCU	\$ 12,247	VMI	\$ 36,128	CNU	\$ 5,824	GMU	\$ 11,705	UVA	\$ 28,335	VMI	\$ 55,728
4	VT	\$ 11,595	VCU	\$ 33,555	LU	\$ 5,580	UVA	\$ 11,703	CNU	\$ 26,684	GMU	\$ 47,729
5	VMI	\$ 9,284	GMU	\$ 32,520	JMU	\$ 4,956	LU	\$ 11,668	VCU	\$ 25,419	VCU	\$ 46,727
6	CNU	\$ 9,100	VT	\$ 30,739	UVAW	\$ 4,558	VSU	\$ 11,544	LU	\$ 25,188	VT	\$ 42,177
7	GMU	\$ 9,060	ODU	\$ 27,207	UMW	\$ 4,532	ODU	\$ 10,868	GMU	\$ 24,269	ODU	\$ 42,048
8	UMW	\$ 8,678	UMW	\$ 25,104	ODU	\$ 3,973	NSU	\$ 10,844	UMW	\$ 23,940	LU	\$ 41,148
9	RU	\$ 7,980	UVAW	\$ 24,250	NSU	\$ 3,870	VCU	\$ 10,823	VT	\$ 23,033	UMW	\$ 40,366
10	LU	\$ 7,940	JMU	\$ 24,150	GMU	\$ 3,504	UVAW	\$ 10,751	JMU	\$ 22,706	JMU	\$ 39,606
11	JMU	\$ 7,250	LU	\$ 23,900	VSU	\$ 3,385	UMW	\$ 10,730	ODU	\$ 21,888	UVAW	\$ 39,559
12	ODU	\$ 7,047	CNU	\$ 21,966	RU	\$ 3,370	JMU	\$ 10,500	UVAW	\$ 21,003	CNU	\$ 39,550
13	VSU	\$ 5,769	RU	\$ 20,062	UVA	\$ 2,484	VMI	\$ 9,766	RU	\$ 20,987	RU	\$ 33,069
14	NSU	\$ 5,752	NSU	\$ 17,680	VCU	\$ 2,349	RU	\$ 9,637	VSU	\$ 20,698	VSU	\$ 32,453
15	UVAW	\$ 5,694	VSU	\$ 17,524	VT	\$ 2,096	VT	\$ 9,342	NSU	\$ 20,466	NSU	\$ 32,394

* Preliminary 19-20 Data

(1) Charges shown in the table represent the weighted average double occupancy room charge and the maximum weekly meal plan offered, not necessarily the plan used by most students. The JMU 14 The JMU 14 meal plan is shown in the chart as this is the most popular plan at the university and the plan approved by the BOV.

For the 2019-20 school year, JMU was ranked with the fifth highest comprehensive fee, or mandatory non-E&G fee, in the state.

Courtesy of JMU

With JMU's \$619 million budget, only one-third of the funds come from taxpayers. This 29.9% is allocated toward academic instruction, education and general programs — not including auxiliaries like student health services and athletics. In 2017-18, out of the 15 state-supported institutions in Virginia, JMU receives the least amount of funding from the state.

High ROI

As of 2017-18, JMU is one of the lowest funded institutions in the Commonwealth

Institution	Annualized In-State FTE	E&G Operating General Funds	General Fund Per In-State Annualized FTE
NSU	3,761	\$45,458,921	\$12,087
UVA-W	1,466	\$15,520,587	\$10,587
VSU	3,234	\$34,088,277	\$10,541
UVA	14,319	\$123,816,880	\$8,647
CWM	5,229	\$41,418,826	\$7,921
VMI	1,200	\$9,430,394	\$7,859
VCU	23,251	\$170,040,472	\$7,313
VT	22,643	\$155,506,414	\$6,868
ODU	17,601	\$117,711,131	\$6,688
UMW	3,964	\$25,762,809	\$6,499
LU	4,343	\$26,890,848	\$6,192
CNU	4,625	\$27,703,597	\$5,990
RU	8,402	\$49,169,928	\$5,852
GMU	24,122	\$131,499,066	\$5,451
JMU	15,868	\$79,795,009	\$5,029
Average	10,269	\$70,254,211	\$6,842

Data Sources: SCHEV e5B Report (17-18) and 2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly, Chapter 836

As of 2017-18, JMU was the lowest funded public four-year institution in Virginia.

Courtesy of JMU

“The biggest problem we’ve had is over the past 20 years, we’ve grown tremendously, and we grew during a period of time the state wasn’t able to fund us like their formulas said they were, and we just kept on growing and doing it ourselves,” King said.

While King acknowledges that not everyone benefits from certain activities like athletics, he said it’s important for everyone to pay the same amount toward one fee rather than people picking what their money goes toward.

“It’s a comprehensive fee for a reason,” King said. “It’s not an athletic fee, or a bus fee or a parking fee. It’s one fee, and it’s because we can provide a better package that way when we combine it all together.”

Diane Stamp, assistant vice president for the office of budget management, said the comprehensive fee is “self-supporting,” meaning all funds allocated from the fee cover all expenses not related to academics, such as salaries. While the cost of JMU’s tuition didn’t increase for the 2019-20 academic year, the comprehensive fee was raised by \$190 to account for the 3% raise given to all JMU employees in July.

“The revenue that comes in has to pay for everything,” Stamp said. “Not only debt service, but salaries for our staff,” Stamp said. “If there’s a state increase, everybody’s a state employee. That goes to our salaries; the comprehensive fee has to support that.”

JMU places high importance on the comprehensive fee because of the resources it provides to the community. Bill Wyatt, the university spokesman, said that having access to high-quality facilities like UREC and the University Health Center is crucial.

“The quality of the student services we provide, that’s a commitment from the university,” Wyatt said. “You know, we believe as a university that those services are just as important for a student’s success as, you know, being successful in the classroom.”

Compared to other college campuses in Virginia, King and Wyatt agree that JMU takes pride in its “private” feel, meaning that even though the university has about 21,000 students, its campus still has an intimate atmosphere.

“When we put an emphasis on student services, it always makes that difference,” King said. “And this is a long-standing tradition at this institution.”

https://www.breezejmu.org/news/the-history-impact-and-backlash-of-blackface-at-jmu/article_47a7ed9c-3552-11e9-9326-6be33e388ce2.html

The history, impact and backlash of blackface at JMU

Katelyn Waltemyer | The Breeze Feb 20, 2019

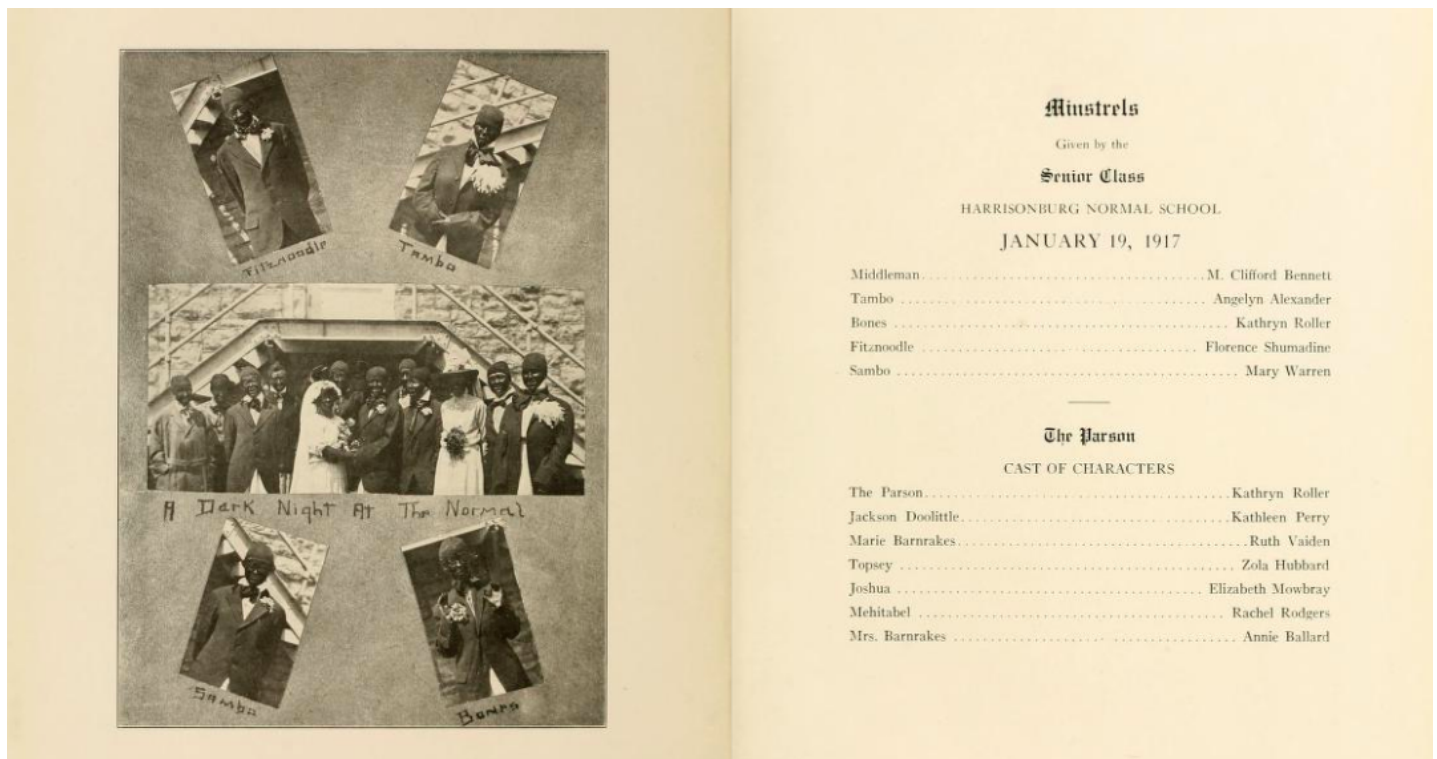


A student was pictured wearing blackface at a Halloween gala in the 1981 edition of the Bluestone yearbook. Courtesy of JMU Special Collections

Blackface can be traced back to the early 1800s, when racism was embedded in American culture. Thomas Rice, who's known as the "[father of minstrelsy](#)," created the infamous blackface character Jim Crow in 1830. Minstrelsy gained popularity soon after, and by the 1840s, dozens of stereotypes of African-Americans had been instilled in American society — a reality that's still affecting people of color today.

The impacts of these acts influenced the college experience across the nation, including Madison College — now known as JMU. As shown by the Virginia lawmakers who recently apologized for wearing blackface in college, the issue is rooted deep in the Commonwealth.

The first documentation of blackface on Madison College’s campus can be traced back as early as 1912 when its Schoolma’am Yearbook published the “Shendo Land” song, which was sung at commencement that year, according to Margaret Mulrooney, a historian and the associate vice provost for university programs. The song was known to be performed by people wearing blackface, and it used specific language to mock people of color. A few years later in the 1917 edition of the Schoolma’am, one of the opening spreads included a photograph and itinerary of a student-led minstrel show called “A Dark Night at the Normal.”



Minstrels

Given by the
Senior Class
HARRISONBURG NORMAL SCHOOL.
JANUARY 19, 1917

- Middleman M. Clifford Bennett
- Tambo Angelyn Alexander
- Bones Kathryn Roller
- Fitznoodle Florence Shumadine
- Sambo Mary Warren

The Parson

CAST OF CHARACTERS

- The Parson Kathryn Roller
- Jackson Doolittle Kathleen Perry
- Marie Barnrakes Ruth Vaiden
- Topsey Zola Hubbard
- Joshua Elizabeth Mowbray
- Mehitabel Rachel Rodgers
- Mrs. Barnrakes Annie Ballard

Minstrel shows were popular in the American culture and even Madison College in the early 1900s. Minstrel shows were sanctioned events on campus.

Courtesy of JMU Special Collections

Minstrelsy was an influential part of society and wasn't only accepted, but encouraged. The Bluestone printed a photo in 1954 of three individuals dressed in blackface participating in the "Senior 'Plantation Party' Offers Traditional Southern Hospitality" minstrel show.



Minstrel shows targeted the stereotypes of African-Americans in particular by making fun of the way they dressed spoke and acted.

Courtesy of JMU Special Collections

According to Mulrooney, the heart of racist behavior, then and now, stems from the many Americans who were against desegregation in the '60s.

“One day you wake up and you have to share the bathroom with black people,” Mulrooney said. “The signs are gone. The white and the colored signs are just gone. It doesn’t mean that you have changed, it just means the sign is gone.”

Executive Order 10925, which established affirmative action, was signed into law in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy, requiring employers and educational institutions to not discriminate against applicants by their race, color, religion or national origin. This helped males of all races at Madison College because when the school went co-ed in '66, more programs became available like football and the Marching Royal Dukes. It also allowed the first African-American JMU student, Sheary Johnson, to be [admitted in '66](#). However, as time went on, it became obvious not everyone was supportive of these changes. According to Johnson, she found her time at JMU to be “enlightening,” but societal norms ruled the campus at that time, creating a drastic racial cliché on campus.

“People were not really in the position to really learn somebody else,” Johnson said. “Whites stayed with whites. Blacks stayed with blacks. You really didn’t learn [about] each other so I just thought that they, for the most part, were not able to move forward.”

There came a time when some people believed there needed to be more African-Americans represented at JMU, while others believed people should be admitted and hired based on their merit, not their skin color.

More black profs needed

To the editor:

I would like to respond to Paul Brown's letter of Nov. 18.

It is true that the color of a professor's skin does not affect his abilities or lack thereof. However, I still firmly believe that more black professors and administrators should be admitted to the staff of this steadily progressing institution for several reasons:

(1) To help eliminate the "white school" label that has been placed on James Madison University throughout the black population of Virginia.

(2) To serve as role models for the black students attending James Madison University.

(3) To assist the faculty and administrators presently employed at James Madison University in making decisions that will affect black students without the time-consuming assistance of the black JMU student population.

Furthermore, if you will reread the Nov. 11 article "Blacks at JMU concerned with discrimination" you will notice that I did not make the statement about narrow-

mindedness of the people on this campus. The article reads "One student suggested..." and goes on to discuss the narrow-mindedness of the people on this campus.

I invite you to attend a meeting of the Black Student Alliance which is held the first and third Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Warren Campus Center. Perhaps we can use your "pull for the right way to conduct the business of this University."

Carrolet I. Taylor
Minority Affairs Corodinator

This letter to the editor was published in The Breeze on Nov. 11, 1977.

Courtesy of JMU Special Collections

During this time, African-American dances were performed on campus and according to the archive in The "Mad" '70s, students "enjoyed" it. But out of the 1,347 students enrolled in Madison College at that time, only 10 were African-American. According to Mulrooney, even though Ronald Carrier, JMU's fourth president, spearheaded the desegregation process at Madison College, it, along with every other academic institution in Virginia, was "out of line" with federal mandates and regulations of desegregation from 1954-78. It wasn't until after David Tatel, the Virginia Director for the Office for Civil Rights in 1977, sent a letter to Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin that change ensued. Tatel stated that Virginia "did not meet important desegregation requirements and have failed to achieve significant progress toward higher education desegregation."

In order to increase diversity on campus, Carrier established the university's Black Student Alliance soon after his inauguration and supported Delta Sigma Theta, a service sorority on campus that introduced a "Black Emphasis Week."

However, the '80s became a time of resistance in the U.S. In the 1981 Bluestone yearbook, a student was photographed [sporting blackface](#) at a campus event. In the '83 yearbook, another student was depicted hoisting a Confederate flag into the air and gave "[rebel yells](#)" at a Southern rock concert, and in the 1987 edition, another student was shown wearing blackface [as part of a costume](#) at a Halloween party.

According to Mulrooney, minstrelsy persisted on college campuses and other public spaces into the '80s. Many people didn't want to see change, which is why Mulrooney wasn't surprised when she discovered that Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring admitted to wearing blackface in 1980 after she saw the photo of two individuals wearing racist garb in Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook from 1984.

"You see minstrelsy cropping up in different places as well as more discriminatory behaviors and actions as a way of demeaning black people and affirming whiteness," Mulrooney said.

Even though the use of blackface was diminishing, it wasn't uncommon to find people wearing blackface at parties or other underground events in the '80s.

The number of enrolled African-American students jumped from 30 in 1976 to 63 in 1980. The university attributed this to its affirmative action program that focused on recruiting students of color. Changes in society's perspective of race were made evident in the '90s; at JMU, The Breeze published an article stating that the [African-American studies minor](#) may reappear in 1992. The minor was later re-introduced to campus, and it was renamed to African, African-American and diaspora studies over the past year.

Incidents involving blackface haven't gone away. Last semester, a former adjunct professor at JMU dressed up as "Urethra Franklin" and [wore blackface](#). Even though he wasn't teaching at the time of the incident, the university officially cut ties with him. More recently, after Northam and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring admitted to the public that they'd donned blackface in the past, JMU President Jonathan Alger sent out a campus-wide email addressing the community.

"James Madison University is firmly committed to a welcoming, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment for individuals of all backgrounds," Alger said. "Messages that condone racism, violence or hatred are antithetical to our mission and values."


Senior Sakira Coleman created the “Unheard Voices” program at JMU her freshman year and led an event hosted by Women of Color called “Speak Up” last semester, just days after the former JMU professor blackface incident. The health communications major believes that to move forward, people have to understand the past.

“The point that I always bring up is people of color don’t get to take their skin off,” Coleman said. “They don’t get to change the color of their skin. They don’t get to scrub it away at the end of the day. We have to live with these consequences. We are constantly living with consequences, whether that’s mass incarceration, police brutality, being profiled, being seen as inferior in the classroom.”

While the U.S. has progressed significantly in regard to equality since the civil rights movement, African-American students aren’t viewed as equals by everyone. According to Coleman, she’s had several instances at JMU where she was viewed as inferior by group members while working on class projects. Coleman has had to talk to several professors over the years at JMU to confront the issues when they arise.

Coleman has also met people at JMU who “hadn’t met a black person before.” Because of this, she values education in regard to black history, from the good to the bad.

“Racism, microaggressions, they are constant unless you are intentionally working to pull back the history of it,” Coleman said. “You can’t forget the history of it or it’s bound to repeat itself.”

As a college student, Coleman has seen people wearing blackface at other Virginia universities in the past as well as other racist behaviors. In January, a female was awarded the “blackest white girl you’ll ever meet” award at an Alpha Phi semi-formal at Old Dominion University. 

Coleman, it wasn't a surprise to see these behaviors. She believes people don't realize the consequences when it comes to stereotyping.

Much like Mulrooney, Coleman and many of her peers believe education about the past is the only way the community can move forward. A common theme, however, is that few or none non-African-Americans attend events such as "Speak Up."

"It's redundant when we're talking about police brutality or blackface but it's only black people in the room," Coleman said. "We are in our own bubble, and I think that needs to change."

While it's undeniable that strides have been made to create equality, Johnson believes there's still plenty of progress to be made in the U.S.

"We have a ways to go on the one hand ... I believe we have to look at the context," Johnson said. "Watch the actions of the person because their actions let you know who they are and what they really think of you as a person and ... your race. Don't go by what people say, go by what they do."

Contact Katelyn Waltemyer at breezenews@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

Katelyn Waltemyer

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https://www.breezejmu.org/news/mental-health-concerns-for-students-still-linger-at-jmu/article_6decae82-097a-11ea-8e54-cb9cc7edd1a8.html

Mental health concerns for students still linger at JMU

Katelyn Waltemyer | The Breeze Nov 17, 2019



Miller said that he spoke with members of the Counseling Center and the Dean of Students office before sending both emails to faculty and students.

Breeze File Photo

Just over a month since JMU's Counseling Center began [limiting access](#) to one-on-one therapy, faculty members received an email from Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Miller addressing the "record number" of students who have come forward with mental health concerns in "the last week or so."

"I got some information from folks about 'Hey it seems like we're seeing a lot of different, like higher, numbers than we would expect right now, and a higher level of concern,'" Miller said. "That's when we sort of jumped in and said, 'Here, let's do something, let's make sure

everyone's aware and try to mobilize the community.”

Miller said the increase of distressed students at this point in the semester is abnormal because there's usually a spike in mental health concerns around October due to midterms. Miller's email also said that JMU has received the most reported [self-harm attempts](#) in the past week.



When asked about the number of students who have been affected, Miller said the numbers weren't available but stated that there's been an increase in students coming forward all semester. He also said the language used in the email was deliberate to ensure the attention of JMU faculty and staff.

“It's not actually a quote-on-quote record,” Miller said. “It was honestly just the way I said it to get people to pay attention.”

Before sending the email, Miller addressed the issue within several branches of Student Affairs like the Counseling Center and the Dean of Students' office. Miller stressed that if one student feels this way, it's too many.

“To me, I have a concern for our students' well-being, and I know, without sounding rude about it, we often know a lot about what's going on with students and others don't, so I wanted to make sure everyone knew my level of concern,” Miller said.

In response to the information he received, Miller also sent an email to JMU students with the subject line “You Got This!” Miller's email listed [several resources on campus](#) such as UPB events and puppy appearances to help destress students. Alongside Miller, JMU Spokesman Bill Wyatt said the JMU community must keep a close eye on common stressors.

“Mental health is always a concern for the university,” Wyatt said. “I know that we have added counselors in years past, and I’m certain that will be a consideration as we move forward.”

In Miller’s email to faculty, he stated that he’s “incredibly concerned” about students and urged colleagues to keep an eye out for any signs of distress, such as changes in appearance, lack of concentration or abnormally low attendance rates. Miller also stressed the importance of taking students seriously when they come forward about their challenges.

Beyond acknowledging the signs, Miller encourages faculty and staff to walk students to the Counseling Center and to submit a Madison Cares Referral. Madison Cares is [an outlet](#) for all branches of JMU, including parents and community members, to refer to when concerned about students’ well-being.

“We really need everybody to connect with their students and look after each other,” Miller said.

After speaking with Miller, Speaker of JMU’s Faculty Senate Mark Piper sent an email to all faculty echoing Miller and insisted that anything odd should be concerning.

“We can’t always know what is going on, but we are in a strong position to help students in need,” Piper said in the email.

In just under two decades, Counseling Center Director David Onestak said the Center has seen a 192% [increase in clients](#). Acknowledging the [limits the center has](#), Miller emphasized that everyone has the “ability to relate to somebody.”

“Not everybody needs to sit in a room with a counselor,” Miller said. “Sometimes, they just need someone to sit in a room and listen to them, and they don’t have additional counselors to do that, so I’m trying to help people understand that one of the values they have is just being able to relate to people on a human level when they are having a hard time.”

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