



## Washington and Lee University Lexington, Virginia

**Fran Elrod** joined the Shepherd Program in July 2006. Prior to coming to Washington and Lee, Fran worked for the Rockbridge Area Community Services Board for nine years. The RACS is a local not-for-profit agency that provides an array of services including Community Support Services to the Developmentally Disabled, Youth and Family Services, Mental Health Service and Substance Abuse Services. Fran is a graduate of James Madison University where she majored in Psychology and Dance. Prior to returning to Lexington in 1997, Fran worked extensively with troubled youth on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona and New Mexico.

Founded in 1749, this liberal arts institution is named for two of the most influential men in American history: George Washington and Robert E. Lee. The University is located three hours southwest of Washington, D.C. in the historic city of Lexington (population 7,000). Home to 1,770 undergraduate students, Washington and Lee's academic programs are offered through the College and the Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics. Washington and Lee also has a graduate School of Law.

Washington and Lee's Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability integrates academic study and learning through service and reflection. This concentration in studies (a minimum of 16 credit hours) supplements a major and endeavors to inform students about poverty and what can be done to foster human capabilities for communities and individuals who have been left behind in domestic and international development.

The Shepherd Alliance Summer Internship Program allows for approximately 60 students (30 from other universities) to work for eight weeks in impoverished communities throughout the country and internationally. Students work with agencies that fit their intellectual interests in order to develop their experience and skills for future civic involvement and employment. Student participation from all schools is funded by foundation grants, contributions from some partnering schools, and Washington and Lee alumni, parents, and friends. Participants are reimbursed for housing, meals, and transportation and through the Ameri-Corps Education Award, receive a \$1,000 voucher. Expenses for orientation and closing conferences are also covered by the Shepherd Alliance.

### **Contact:**

Fran Elrod  
Coordinator of Co-curricular Education  
540-458-8230  
elrodf@wlu.edu  
[www.wlu.edu/x12034.xml](http://www.wlu.edu/x12034.xml)