

From History to Technology

“What a long strange trip it’s been...”



JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®

James Madison University

- R2 Status Attained in January 2022
- HPC is in its infancy at JMU – we aspire to more.
- Information Technology
 - Computing Support, Information Systems, Infrastructure Services, Policy and Compliance, Security and Strategic Initiatives
 - ~ 130 staff – mostly centralized
 - Report through CFO (VP for Administration and Finance)
 - Actively partner with Dean of Libraries on instructional technology
 - Actively partner with Vice Provost for Research



James Madison University

- Major DEI initiatives in progress
 - Climate Study completed
 - Taskforce on Racial Equity
 - New VP for DEI hired
 - Compensation Commission
- Hiring Challenges
 - Struggling to recruit
 - Don't get diverse applicants
 - H1B
- New Information Technology major



My Background

- Working class family
- Father who believed in independent women
- Wanted to be a doctor
- Major in something you enjoy
- Hated computer class but...
- Modern European History



JMU

- Part-time computer operator
- Personal computers arrived - 1984
- Goodbye IBM Selectric Typewriters!
- Roll-out of student system access
- Downloads, dBase and Sneakernet
- Associate Registrar – 1992
- “University at Risk” – 1994
- PeopleSoft Student System Beta



JMU – Back to IT

- IIS Coordinator
- Director for Information Systems
- Executive Director for IS
- Deputy CIO
- CIO/Assistant VP for IT



Current Focus

- Strategic Planning and Funding
- Improve IT Efficiency
- Reengineering Madison
- Office365 – Modern Workplace
- Academic Affairs
 - Listening tour
 - Research
 - Reproachment
- Communication emphasis
- Security
- Recruitment and Retention
- Work/Life Balance



Reflections and Lessons Learned

- If you don't learn from history, you're destined to relive it.
- Liberal Arts education can open doors you never imagined.
- Collaboration and active listening are key to success in higher education.
- Being the only woman in the room can teach you a lot... if you let it.
 - Tougher skin
 - Assertive isn't always appreciated.
 - Persist
 - Thoughtful honesty



Reflections and Lessons Learned

- Networking is key.
- You never know who is watching.
- Question everything – even though it won't be appreciated!
- Women are adaptable and change is inevitable!
- Women must support one another.
- Groups like this one matter!



THE MARK OF AN
EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN
@raiseherwild
IS NOT HOW
SHE RISES
ABOVE THE REST.
IT'S HOW SHE
REACHES BACK
TO RAISE UP OTHERS.

