

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF EQUALITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, October 10, 2003

William M. Rodgers III, The College of William and Mary's Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Associate Professor of Economics will be resigning from his position at the end of the current semester. He has accepted a tenured position as a Professor at Rutgers University's Edward J. Bloustein School of Public Policy.

Rodgers will also become the Chief Economist of the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development. The Center is a research and policy organization dedicated to applying the best research to address the core challenges of New Jersey's and the nation's workforce.

The Center's goals are focused on easing the skills crunch, ensuring that no one who is able to work is left behind in the 21st century economy, connecting dislocated workers to lifelong learning and job opportunities, addressing the career crisis of non college-bound youth, and ensuring that workforce and other government programs are managed for results, with cost-effectiveness and transparency to the taxpayer and customer.

Rodgers has been at William and Mary since 1993. While at the College, he served as the Chief Economist of the U.S. Department of Labor, as a member of Governor Mark Warner's Advisory Board of Economists, and on the research boards of the National Urban League Institute for Opportunity and Equality, the University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, the Economic Policy Institute, and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Academic Advisory Board.

Some of his scholarly activities include serving as an Associate Editor for the *Southern Economic Journal* and as a Senior Research Affiliate of the National Poverty Center, located at the University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

A highlight of his 10 year career at the College was chairing President Sullivan's Committee on Employee Opportunity. The Committee studied and made recommendations on how to improve the paths of personal advancement and professional growth of the College's classified, part-time and contract work force. He also started the Center for the Study of Equality. The goals of the Center have been to generate rigorous economic research, provide undergraduates with rich educational experiences, and support the enhancement of the community's economic literacy.

Rodgers has been active in the Williamsburg Area community, serving as co-chair of the Programs and Planning Committee of the United Way of Greater Williamsburg. He was also a member of the Williamsburg-James City County School Board and a Trustee for the New Horizons Regional Vocational Education Center.