

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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Issue 53

Growing the Coalition If you know a school that should be a member of the Yes We Must Coalition, please connect us with them. Growing numbers make us stronger in the work we do together and the voice we raise on behalf of low-income students. Please get in touch with Gloria Nemerowicz, President, at glorianemerowicz@yeswemustcoalition.org.

YWMC MEMBER SHOWCASE: College of Saint Mary



College of Saint Mary (CSM), located in the heart of Omaha, Nebraska, was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1923. Catherine McAuley, an early 19th-century Irishwoman who started the Sisters of Mercy, believed that nothing benefitted society more than the careful education of women. The strength of her conviction created what would become a long line of women's secondary and post-secondary schools around the globe. CSM is one of those schools. College of Saint Mary is a charter member of the Yes We Must Coalition.

CSM will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2023–24. We can only imagine how proud our founding Sisters of Mercy would be of how we have grown and adapted over time, continuing to transform lives through the power of education. The University develops innovative opportunities to help students complete their degrees faster and transition into their careers.

without the burden of excessive debt. In the fall of 2017, CSM slashed undergraduate tuition by 33%, or approximately \$10,000. Since that tuition reset, the average annual loan borrowing by CSM students decreased 43% from \$11,224 to \$6,357.

CSM offers women undergraduate degrees in more than 35 majors including healthcare, education, business, and the liberal arts and sciences. Graduate programs, open to all, include doctoral programs in education, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, and master's programs in teaching, physician assistant studies, kinesiology and exercise science, and organizational leadership.



A hallmark of CSM is the ability to see a community's needs and respond quickly. The University awards three main scholarships:

- The Josie Harper Nursing Scholarships provide a debt-free pathway to 100 nursing students over the next four years. Recipients receive up to \$29,000 annually, including significant financial support for tuition, campus housing, and educational expenses. The scholarship is automatically renewable each year through the completion of a student's BSN degree.
- The Marie Curie Scholarship offers a unique and competitive program for academically talented students who excel in STEM. Supported by the National Science Foundation, the \$80,000 scholarship provides significant financial support and resources for young women who want to major in biology, chemistry, mathematics or human biology.
- The Misericordia Scholarship opens the door to higher education for undocumented students of diverse backgrounds who are not eligible for federal assistance.

A unique opportunity offered at CSM is the Mothers Living and Learning Program, which uplifts single mothers with various services including the ability to live on campus with their children in Madonna Hall. CSM also assists all single parents, living on or off campus, through the Single Parent Success Program.

CSM currently offers 11 competitive sports including basketball, bowling, competitive dance, cross country, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. In 2021, CSM opened a new \$18 million state-of-the-art Lied Fitness Center Fieldhouse. The facility — a 75,000-square-foot addition to the existing fitness center — provides CSM athletes and the greater Omaha area a place for women to excel and grow through athletics.

CSM has been recognized as a “Top University in Nebraska” and one of the “Best Catholic Colleges in the Nation” by Colleges of Distinction. For three consecutive years, CSM was among the nation’s “Best Women’s Colleges in America,” according to Niche. The University was chosen based on exceptional value, high-quality academic offerings, mission-driven programming, diversity of students, and campus life experience. Other honors include excellence in nursing and education. For more information, please contact Kimberly Allen, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, at kallen@csm.edu.

Institutional Resources/Practices

Entrepreneurship: More Than Just a Business Activity at Universidad del Sagrado Corazón

The **Universidad del Sagrado Corazón** (Sagrado) is the oldest private educational institution in Puerto Rico, rooted in the Society of the Sacred Heart mission. In the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and María, which devastated our communities and local economy in 2017 and resulted in high migration rates and weakened infrastructure, Sagrado’s curriculum was reviewed to respond to Puerto Rico’s most urgent issues. In 2020 a new academic project was implemented incorporating three study components as general requirements in all undergraduate programs: 21st-Century Skills, Self-Leadership, and Entrepreneurship. These components stem from Sagrado’s strengths: to educate socially committed and innovative professionals through active, community-based, and project-based learning.

At Sagrado, entrepreneurship is the search for sustainable solutions to collective challenges more than just a business activity. Sagrado’s Entrepreneurship Component (EC) emphasizes the importance of entrepreneurial thinking and action competency in each discipline, accentuates the complexity of the Puerto Rican landscape after many natural hardships, and aims to develop in our students the skills they need to compete successfully in their fields.

The EC consists of six three-credit courses that develop entrepreneurial skills in phases:

Course	Level	Deliverables
EMP113 Ideation	Freshman	Need assessment and proposed solution.
EMP213 Validation	Sophomore	First draft of the proposed project Canvas Idea Validation First version of the prototype
EMP311 Development I	Junior	Project Model Canvas Pitch Prototype
EMP312 Development II		Project plan for implementation
EMP411 Implementation I	Senior	Implementation first part of the project plan
EMP413C Implementation II		Implementation second part of the project plan Business Plan (if needed)

NEEUKO (Sagrado's Center for Collaborative Innovation) became the EC's laboratory to develop these skills. NEEUKO is the first center in Puerto Rico with a vision for developing products and services from idea to execution. NEEUKO offers students training in research, creativity, design, prototyping, and technical consultancy.

In 2021, three main initiatives were established to complement the EC:

- **Idea Factory Contest:** Students compete by presenting their project ideas. In 2022, 500 students participated, and 60 made it to the final round. The best three innovative ideas won cash prizes.
- **Lab 26:** A two-week, online summer program to complete the Entrepreneurship courses and advance students' entrepreneurial ideas in the ideation and validation phases. The program uses the Design Sprint methodology developed by the Google Venture team to answer critical business questions through prototype design, user tests, and data collection.
- **La Cepita:** An eight-week summer program to accelerate the development of students' ideas during the validation phase through an intensive business and design program. In 2022 the four best projects received \$2,000 in seed funds and specialized consultancy.

Sagrado is establishing five entrepreneurial hubs to better assist and mentor students' initiatives in diverse fields while assuring income-generating efforts to guarantee their viability and sustainability:

- Creative/Culture Entrepreneurship
- Technology-based/Scientific Entrepreneurship
- Social Entrepreneurship
- Healthcare Entrepreneurship
- Traditional Businesses

To meet each industry's requirements, Sagrado's Entrepreneurial City received the support of a U.S. Department of Commerce grant.

As an HSI institution with a large population of low-income students, Sagrado is confident that students will generate sustainable, creative, and responsible solutions, impacting their communities within an ethical framework of social responsibility and sensibility to diversity. For more information, please contact Anuchka Ramos Ruiz, Provost, at anuchka.ramos@sagrado.edu.

Submissions for Future Issues

YWMC members are encouraged to submit examples of policies, practices and/or resources that you have found to be effective in promoting student success and that you would like to share with your YWMC colleagues. We are particularly interested in examples of how members are addressing issues of social and racial justice. Send ideas for the newsletter to Barbara Kirby, Operations Manager, barbarakirby@yeswemustcoalition.org.