

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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<https://yeswemustcoalition.org>

Issue 35

Responding to the Crises

In order to provide a forum for YWMC members to share strategies and raise questions regarding the COVID-19 crisis as well as the crisis to address racial and social inequities, we have continued to hold Open Forums via our Zoom platform for members in general and for faculty. Information regarding links to these sessions is sent out via the email lists for YWMC Google Groups. We welcome any members who wish to join the conversation. In addition, we are updating a list of publications, project descriptions and other related materials that YWMC members have found useful in addressing issues of equity and justice on their campuses, with an emphasis on materials authored by YWMC faculty and staff. If you have references you'd like us to include, please send to Ann Landis, annlandis@gmail.com. Readers may also find previous YWMC publications useful for thinking about these current issues (see: <https://yeswemustcoalition.org/publications-webinars>).

YWMC MEMBER SHOWCASE: Salem College

Founded in 1772 — four years before the Declaration of Independence was signed — **Salem College**, a small undergraduate college for women located near vibrant downtown



Winston-Salem, NC, provides leadership opportunities that build entrepreneurial skills and empower graduates. According to the American Council on Education, Salem College is the thirteenth oldest college in the United States, and the oldest educational institution for women in the nation.

Salem's total enrollment of 940 includes traditional-college-age women undergraduates, adults enrolled in the graduate degree programs in education, and women and men ages 23 and up who take courses through the Fleeer Center for Adult Education. Fifty-five percent of Salem undergraduates are Pell-eligible. Salem College is in Division III of the NCAA and is a member of the USA South Athletic Conference. Salem joined the Yes We Must Coalition in 2019.

Salem's historical roots are in the Moravian Church, a faith that believed in the then-progressive notion of the need to educate girls and young women. Following the Moravian tradition, Salem's mission today is to prepare women to change the world by preparing graduates with



the skills and competencies of the liberal arts. The College offers an innovative, problem-solving classroom curriculum enriched by related co-curricular experiences. Salem offers a wide range of clubs, programs, athletics, and organizations available for students to expand their cultural horizons and celebrate both similarities and differences with fellow classmates.

Salem also supports programming and leadership development designed specifically to be responsive to low-income students.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Salem has provided flexibility and support to its students, all of whom have been learning remotely since March 2020 and will continue remote learning during the spring 2021 semester. Salem's combination of synchronous and asynchronous courses allows students to learn according to the modality that works best for each student's needs. In addition, Salem's Gramley Library staff have provided Chromebooks,

laptops, and other technology support to students who may not have access to the technology best suited for remote learning.

As Salem nears its 250th anniversary, the College remains firmly rooted in its three core values — learning grounded in the pursuit of excellence; the importance of community and diversity; and responsibility to oneself and to the world. For more information about Salem College, please visit <https://salem.edu>.

Institutional Resources/Practices

Campus Based Classroom with Support for Community Children Learning Remotely

This fall the **College of Saint Mary** (NE) launched the ‘CSM Kids Club,’ a program designed to support students, faculty, and staff with children in grades K–6 whose elementary schools have moved to a remote learning model. The Kids Club is free of charge and provides classroom space and computers for children to log onto their computer to access live video and lesson plans, while two CSM students are available in each room to facilitate the learning and troubleshoot any issues that may arise. With 40 children currently registered, CSM has reserved four of its classrooms for the program and is exploring opportunities to expand if needed.

The CSM Kids Club is open from 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Children must be signed in and out by their parent or guardian each day. The child’s temperature is taken each day prior to entry to ensure there is no fever. Parents must ensure their child arrives with a mask, as they are required at all times in the classroom. The format simulates a real classroom environment, which means no drop-ins or visitors, and the expectation that children will arrive on time each day. “We wanted some way to ensure students and parenting staff and faculty have the opportunity to stabilize their lives in a time of uncertainty,” says Barbara Treadway, director of single parent success at the College. “The program cares for their children as a school would — where they can still learn and engage in a hands-on way.”

The program also provides a way for CSM elementary education students to receive valuable field experience hours required for their degree. “It gives them a fantastic perspective of remote learning,” says Dr. Paula Peal, director of the teacher education programs at CSM. “Our students can see first-hand how a teacher is instructing and developing curriculum fit for a remote setting. It’s a tremendous experience for aspiring teachers in this ever-changing climate.” For further information contact: Barb Treadway, director of single parent success at CSM; btreadway@csm.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 as well as the impact of the pandemic on their campuses. Send brief descriptions to Nia Lane Chester, YWMC Program Manager. niachester@gmail.com.