

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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Institutional Resources/Practices

Career Pathways

Benedict College (SC) recently received funding from the UNCF Career Pathways Initiative (CPI), funded by Lilly Endowment Inc., to help the institution design and implement programs to improve employment outcomes for college graduates. Benedict College utilizes a three-pronged approach to better prepare students for their chosen career paths: (1) curricular enhancements that add to the rigor and depth of preparation of students in the general education program and in the academic majors and minors that focus on cultural and technological competencies; (2) co-curricular enhancements that focus on strategic problem solving through applied learning experiences for academic disciplines, and (3) guided career pathways, beginning in the freshman year, that develop students' leadership and career fluency. Benedict College's CPI highlights include curriculum redesign and technology integration.

First year students are an integral part of CPI at Benedict. For the first time, the College has hired a career development counselor specifically to provide first-year students with the supplemental career development support they need in the freshman year. Career readiness workshops and career counseling have been developed with first-year students in mind. This academic year, with the collaborative efforts of CPI, the redesign of the freshman experience includes the intentional incorporation of career readiness efforts in the Freshman Seminar course. Freshman faculty in collaboration with CPI staff administer career planning strategies that include career assessment and advisement throughout the freshman year and beyond.

Technology, in the form of Purple Briefcase, has provided further career readiness support campus-wide. Purple Briefcase is an online software that allows students to manage their career-related information such as career profiles, cover letters and resumes, search for jobs and internships, register for campus career events, research graduate schools, and view career-related videos. Collectively, the assessment tools and technology will yield more in-depth and personalized analysis of students' abilities. The tools also afford academic advisors and academic support staff individualized data to further guide students' course and experiential learning selections. For further information, contact Tondaleya Jackson, Executive Director, Benedict College Career Pathways Initiative. Tondaleya.Jackson@Benedict.edu.

Alternative Spring Break

For the last two years, the Chaplains' Office at **Muskingum University** (OH), has offered students the opportunity to participate in an Alternative Spring Break, designed to expose students of all backgrounds to the lives of those who are different from their own, as well as to give them the skills and courage to work towards bettering our world. Last year a group of 10 students traveled to Oak Hill, West Virginia to do house repair after a flood. Since returning

from their trip, the students provided presentations recounting their experiences, the most recent at the Muskingum Valley Presbytery meeting. One international student, from China, summarized the best part of the trip by saying, “I learned so much and now I have true friends.”

This year University Chaplains Will Mullins and Julia Sprague led a group of students on the second annual Muskingum Spring Break Mission Trip. The students traveled to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they volunteered with Open Hand Ministry, learning firsthand about urban poverty and food scarcity. Open Hand Ministry aids families in Pittsburgh’s inner city neighborhoods by providing opportunities for sustainable and affordable home ownership. The Muskie volunteer group helped improve two properties for families in fragile situations by working on interior demolition, cleaning, and painting; hardware installation; and landscaping and yard leveling. For further information contact Nancy Evangelista, Provost. nancye@muskingum.edu.

Yes We Must Coalition National Conference October 24–26, 2018, Austin, Texas

Registration for our conference is now open! For Yes We Must members, if you come with at least 2 colleagues from the same member institution and register during the Early Bird period, the registration fee per person is \$295. This includes a dinner, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 receptions and of course the stimulation of a wonderful conference focused on the mission we share. To register and for more information, go to <https://yeswemustcoalition.org/meetings>

Submissions for Future Issues

YWM members are encouraged to submit examples of practices and/or resources that you have found to be effective in promoting student success and that you would like to share with your YWM colleagues. Send brief descriptions and any accompanying materials to Nia Chester, YWM Program Manager. niachester@gmail.com.