

PRACTICES EXCHANGE

NEWSLETTER

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<https://yeswemustcoalition.org>

Issue 16

This issue includes a new feature, the YWMC Member Showcase, which will highlight a YWMC member each month in order to help us get to know each other better. We will continue to include items describing specific programs and practices at individual institutions.

YWMC MEMBER SHOWCASE:

Finlandia University, Hancock, Michigan

Finlandia University (WI) is a private, HLC accredited, co-educational liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The school is located in Michigan's northernmost city, Hancock, and was founded in 1896 by Lutheran Finnish immigrants as Suomi College. Finlandia University is the only institution of higher learning in North America founded by Finns, a feature that's evident throughout Finlandia's campus, including the Finnish American Heritage Center, the national cultural center of Finnish Americans. The area receives about 300 inches of snow each winter and is home to a range of winter recreational activities including extreme skiing/snowboarding, countless miles of snowmobile trails, and some of the best cross-country skiing in the world. The area comes alive even more in the summer with unlimited outdoor adventure opportunities along the shore of Lake Superior, the world's largest lake.

The only private college in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Finlandia has a student population of about 500 students from 25 states and 6 countries. Fourteen percent are minority students; 57% are female; and 64% are Pell-eligible. About 39% live on campus. Academically, Finlandia is home to more than two dozen programs, the most popular of which are nursing, criminal justice and business. The Jutila Center, a former hospital, showcases the unique studio spaces of the International School of Art & Design. The school's background has led to the creation of programming in Nordic Studies, a growing area of study that differentiates Finlandia from many of its peers. The school is also home to a dozen NCAA Division III athletic programs including football, which was added in 2014. The University is a Founding Member of the Yes We Must Coalition.

Institutional Resources/Practices

Residential Programs for Single Mothers

One of only eight programs of its kind nationwide, the **College of Saint Mary** (NE) offers single mothers studying at the college a residential option for themselves and their children. The Mothers Living & Learning Program makes it possible for single mothers to earn their degrees while living on campus with their children. The residence for single mothers, built in 2012, features 24-hour security, suite-style rooms and accommodations for 48 women and children aged six weeks to ten years old. Single mothers who have one or two children are eligible for the program.

In addition to offering suite-style housing to single mothers, the College of Saint Mary (CSM) also hosts on-campus daycare through its Spellman Child Development Center. This facility gives mothers a trusted environment for childcare just steps away from classes, providing their children with education-focused care while giving CSM undergraduates hands-on experience working at the Center.

These pieces of CSM's Mothers Living & Learning Program, along with on-campus seminars, support groups, and access to a director of single parent success, have melded into a caring community that brings life-changing results to women. It has provided women who may have otherwise given up on the dream of a career with a chance to live out that vision without compromising the development of their children. In turn, it has worked in-step with a learning environment and campus community that is inclusive, nurturing, and focused on empowering women. For more information contact: Barb Treadway, Director of Single Parent Success: BTreadway@csm.edu or Christine Simone, Director of Residence Life: CSimone@csm.edu.

Submissions for Future Issues

YWM 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. Send brief descriptions to Nia Lane Chester, YWMC Program Manager. niachester@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Yes We Must Coalition National Conference taking place October 24–26, 2018, in Austin, Texas.