

# PRACTICES EXCHANGE

## NEWSLETTER

May 2017

<https://www.yeswemustcoalition.org>

Issue 3

## Institutional Resources/Practices

### Experiential Learning

**Robert Morris University** in Chicago, Illinois, has developed and implemented an experience-based learning (EbL) activity certification process to support the integration of peer-reviewed experiential learning in all courses across the institution. Using a digital form, faculty submit details on activities delivered in their courses. The activities are then measured against a rubric to assess their adherence to RMU's experience-based learning model (EbL). Activities that fulfill all of the rubric criteria are labeled "EbL Certified" and made available for all faculty to use and replicate. For additional details on EbL at RMU contact: Paul Gaszak, Dean of Academic Engagement. [pgaszak@robertmorris.edu](mailto:pgaszak@robertmorris.edu).

### Promoting Success of College Athletes

**The University of the Southwest** in Hobbs, New Mexico, has added eight sports teams in the past two years. Nearly all USW's residential students participate in one or more of the 18 varsity teams. While adding NAIA varsity sports teams was accompanied by a significant increase in undergraduate enrollment (from 246 two years ago to 432 today), the significant challenges of retention and completion called out for innovation. Specific measures have been put in place to encourage students to persist to degree completion, take enough credits to graduate on time or early, and perform better in their classes. These include:

- The purchase and distribution of free HP Stream notebook computers for every undergraduate student
- Wi-Fi service on every bus that transports student-athletes to games, the majority of which entail 6-8 hour drives one-way.
- Adding Wi-Fi connectivity for students and faculty, who rely extensively on Blackboard for classroom management.
- A commitment made to incoming student athletes that they will keep their scholarship for four years as long as they make good academic progress and even if they stop playing a sport for an acceptable reason (e.g. injury, burnout, coaching change, etc.), so long as they were willing to work in another capacity on campus.

While these measures have not been in place long enough to fully investigate their impact on enrollment, retention, and graduation, there have been positive effects on recruitment. The average number of student credit hours attempted each semester has also risen significantly

with an increase in students on track to graduate within four years or less. For further information contact Quint Thurman, President. [qthurman@usw.edu](mailto:qthurman@usw.edu).

## Submissions for Future Issues

YWM members are encouraged to submit examples of practices and/or resources to share with your YWM colleagues. We are particularly interested in examples of teaching and learning strategies you have found to be effective in promoting student success. Send brief descriptions and any accompanying materials to Nia Chester, YWM Program Manager. [niachester@gmail.com](mailto:niachester@gmail.com).

## Save the Date

**The Second Yes We Must Coalition National Conference** will be held October 24–26, 2018, at the Omni Austin Hotel Southpark, Austin Texas. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be scheduled during the conference as well.