Learn how WLC is impacting women of color at Norco College!
Empowering Women of Color

OUR MISSION  WLC is intentional about understanding the experiences of marginalized women and providing the necessary support for students to thrive in their personal and academic endeavors. The program’s mission is to lead and unify women of diverse backgrounds to establish a growth mindset of personal worth and value. Also, combat stereotypical views created by society about the image of women. It is essential for women to channel their internal struggles positively and receive guidance and support from peers and professional staff to attain whole student development. To execute the mission of WLC, students have a safe space to discuss current issues that bare adverse effects on women and provide an opportunity for students to voice their opinions and concerns with fellow students and professional staff. Research indicates that marginalized women are facing significant challenges and fighting to overcome barriers that can hinder academic and overall student success. With this in mind, WLC will continue to incorporate the narratives of our students to find new and innovative ways to impact the lives of these women. Most importantly, foster success by aiding in the development of strong character and positive self-image.

“I have learned to love myself in spite of circumstances and situations.
-WLC Student”
As our program continues to grow, we are excited to showcase how WLC is inspiring a community of strong and successful women of color. Here is a glimpse of what we have been up to at Norco College!

WORKSHOPS Occur once a month on campus and utilizes hands-on activities, media resources, propelling topics on controversial issues about gender roles, empowerment, self-image, and self-care to hone in on issues related to marginalized women.

ANNUAL WOMEN’S RETREAT Offers women a chance to attend a mountain retreat center to focus on personal well-being, self-care, inner healing, and be inspired to make positive changes for their lives. The retreat incorporates group activities, themed workshops, professional women presenters, and self-care practices.

WOMEN CENTERED CONFERENCES Are offered to students to promote professional development. The ladies have participated in several conferences including, the UCR Women’s Leadership Conference.

PEER SUPPORT Offered to women in the program that are facing challenges in their personal lives and need one-on-one support.

WELLNESS EVENTS allow us to regroup and practice self-care ways that can lead to healthy minds and physical fitness. All proven methods to combat stressors. The students have participated in many activities including a hike to Pumpkin Rock in Norco.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS are great ways for WLC to provide network opportunities for students and resources. So, for the past couple years we have partnered with the Riverside Area Rape and Crisis Center to bring self-defense classes and vital information on sexual assault to campus. These are necessary life-saving skills to empower our women to be fearless and aware of how to protect themselves.

“Fear stops you from future opportunities, break that fear day by day.”
-WLC Student

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Student Testimonials

It is imperative that women are supported and nurtured to flourish in and outside of the classroom. The student narratives below share how the holistic pedagogy of The Women’s Lean in Circle is transforming the lives of our students.

"Women's Lean in Circle has made an impact on me during my academic journey. I am a non-traditional student and WLC helped me find my place in academia by providing a support network, resources, and tools to use when I need to take a step back and focus on myself. When I transferred to UC Davis in 2018, it was my first time moving away from home and friends. I did not have family in Northern California, so I was a little nervous and home sick. The women I met in WLC continue to keep in touch with me and the techniques I learned have helped me to not be afraid to seek help or friends. I learned to meditate, journal, and to use the resources the campus has to offer like health and food insecurities through the pantry. Because of WLC, today at UC Davis I am a peer advisor for the sociology department and I am the political chair for an organization named CENSOCA, which represents students from Central and South America and the Caribbean. I am also part of the general body of MEChA and La Raza Pre Law Society. Through these organizations I have made a lot of new friends. WLC has taught me to be present and not be afraid to go alone because what matters is that I show up. So being new to Davis and not having family or friends nearby I had to learn to not be afraid to seek out new networks and opportunities and to do the same to other women and first generation students."

Jennifer Vasquez-Bonilla, Transfer University of California Davis

"The woman’s group really helped me to find community within women on color. I learned that I am not the only one dealing with issues. Going to the meetings was something I looked forward to because of dealing with so much stress as a full-time student, and a full-time single parent was overwhelming. Ms. Bailey taught me that I was not alone on this journey. There were many beautiful women of color dealing with the same types of stress. In fact, the meeting and events brought us together and made us stronger woman of color. Joining the Woman’s Lean Circle and meeting Ms. Bailey was one of the best things that happened to be while I was at Norco College. I hope that this Circle continues to grow and continues to help so many women of color to stay strong, together, and equipped to rise to the next level. I am currently at UCR and wished that Ms. Bailey was here with me, to create the same community she managed to create at Norco College."

Maria Santos, Transfer University of California Riverside

"Women’s Lean in Circle has helped me in many ways, most notably in academics and in my personal life. I have learned to be present and fearless. What I mean by present is to show up and be involved mentally, physically, and emotionally. To not only show up and soak in all positive energies, but to exude everything that has been poured into me through the workshops. I am so loved on and informed in these monthly workshops that I leave feeling ready to conquer whatever poses as an obstacle. From self-defense classes to discussions on how to have positive relationships with other women to the stigmas and mental health, I have gained a vast array of tools to deal with everyday issues. Also, I learned to deal with the fear that is associated with failure. For me this fear correlated with achieving my degree as a nontraditional student returning to school after a 10-year break. We recently had a retreat that was theme on standing up to fear. This retreat transformed me being that it helped me realize that being fearless is not the absence of fear, but it is having fear and pushing forward in spite of. In essence, women’s lean circle has been a major vessel in my personal and academic life and I am forever grateful."

Cherresa Tresvan, Current Norco College Student
Empowerment Through Art

During our first annual women's retreat, the students practiced art therapy and ended the day by painting positive affirmations about themselves.
Women need positive role models and co-curricular opportunities to increase their knowledge to be successful and thrive on their academic and personal journey. The Women’s Lean in Circle believes that holistic development is fundamental to the overall personal and academic success of students; this includes providing opportunities for marginalized groups to be exposed to experiences they have never encountered. But, most importantly building a sense of belonging at Norco College that fuels success in the lives of each student.

**Inspiring Women to Succeed!**

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THERE IS NO FORCE MORE POWERFUL THAN A WOMAN DETERMINED TO RISE!

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions about the program:
Anita Bailey, WLC Coordinator
Email: anita.bailey@norcocollege.edu
Office: (951) 738-7797