



**New Opportunity School for Women
at Lees-McRae College**

November 10, 2021

Dear Directors:

I am hoping that you can be of assistance in recruiting for the upcoming 2022 session of the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College. NOSW provides middle-aged Appalachian women who are looking to get a new start with training in resume building, job skills, self-esteem, and more. This summer begins our seventeenth year at Lees-McRae College and we look forward to helping more women experience success through our **intensive three-week program which is offered at no cost to the women**. If the COVID-19 situation allows, we hope to invite participants to campus for a residential program like we've traditionally done. However, if that option is not available, we will offer our program virtually as we did this past year.

Because of your role in our community we are asking for your help in identifying women who are committed to making a change in their lives and encourage them to attend our program. Perhaps you have encountered women who are looking to the future yet are unsure about resources available to them. Our program has served as a catalyst for women who have gone on to enroll in higher education programs or found employment using the information they gained in our professional development classes and internships.

Each year we accept up to 14 women from western North Carolina and/or eastern Tennessee to participate in this life altering program. I have enclosed brochures and an application which we would greatly appreciate if you copied and handed out. Additional copies may be downloaded from our website. The deadline for submission is May 1st since our session will begin June 5th. For more information please visit our webpage, <https://www.lmc.edu/academics/nosw/>. We also invite you to visit our campus in the future and learn more about this unique program.

Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me at harpoldj@lmc.edu or call at (828) 898-8905.

Sincerely,

Jennie Harpold
Director

Help Transform a Woman's Life...

If you are a woman, or know a woman who is ready to make positive changes in her life and is looking for that next step, please consider recommending the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College.

Please help us as we recruit for the annual summer session of the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College. The program's mission is to improve the educational, financial, and personal circumstances of low-income women -- usually between the ages of 30-55 -- who live in or hail from the Southern Appalachian region. Originally founded in 1987 by Lees-McRae College alumna Jane Baucom-Stephenson ('57) in Berea, KY, Lees-McRae College became home to the second New Opportunity School for Women in 2005.

Program Overview

- Fourteen (14) women will be selected for the June 2022 **session which will be June 5-June 25.**
- Three-week residential program - - participants live on campus and do not go home during the program.
- Assistance with childcare costs and travel costs.
- Participants explore career, educational, personal and cultural development:
 - Internships, resume writing, interview skills, computer basics and leadership development.
 - Appalachian literature, women's health, creative writing, public speaking and professional mentoring.
 - Building self-esteem, professional presentation, interview wardrobes and makeovers.
 - Regional field trips, cultural and recreational events.
- Applicants should have a GED or working towards one, high school equivalency diploma, or high school diploma, be of low-income, and have an interest in a new career and/or higher education.
- **There is no cost to the participants with all materials and supplies needed to operate the program being donated.**

Contact:

Jennie Harpold, Director
New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College
(828) 898-8905
harpoldj@lmc.edu
<http://nosw.lmc.edu>





New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College

PO Box 128
Banner Elk, NC 28604

Contact Information

Jennie Harpold, Director of NOSW
Phone: 828.898.8905
Email: harpoldj@lmc.edu
Web: www.lmc.edu/nosw

Application | Three-week Summer Session

Please read and follow the directions carefully. If a question does not apply to you, write in the blank "not applicable" or "N/A." Application must be returned to the address above. You are strongly advised to have your application in by May 1.

Section 1: About You

Today's Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Name that you wished to be called: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Do you have: A Drivers License? Yes No Marital Status: _____

Health Insurance? Yes No Number of children and their ages: _____

A Medical Card? Yes No _____

Name, relationship, and age of all persons currently living in your home: _____

Your ethnic origin (optional): Information requested is voluntary.
It will not be used in making an admissions decision, but is collected
for Institutional research and reporting purposes.

- White African American Asian or Pacific Islander
 Hispanic American Indian or Native Alaskan Other

Because the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College seeks to serve those of limited financial resources, income will be a strong consideration in choosing participants for the program. Please check the category that best represents your FAMILY income. (Be prepared to submit recent tax forms if requested.)

- \$0 - 10,000 per year \$10,000 - 15,000 per year \$15,000 - 20,000 per year

If your income is more than \$20,000 per year, please list your income per year: \$ _____

List sources of income (e.g., work, spouse/partner's work, alimony, welfare benefits, etc.) _____

Please explain any recent unusual financial difficulties: _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor by any court including local, state, federal, or military? Yes No

If yes, please give date and explain. _____

Section 2: Work and Education

Educational Experience: Please list and give the dates of any high schools, colleges, business or vocational schools that you have attended and degrees or certificates awarded to you, including a GED. (attach extra sheet if necessary)

| Dates | School | Highest Level Achieved |
|-------|--------|------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Job Experience: List any jobs that you have held since high school and the approximate date you held the job. Briefly describe your duties in each position. Please start with your most recent work experience. (attach extra sheet if necessary)

| Dates | Position/Employer | Duties |
|-------|-------------------|--------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Are you currently employed? Yes No If yes, how many hours a week do you work? _____

If you have recently stopped working, please state the reason. _____

Please list any volunteer work you may have done in your community, church, or school. _____

Have you previously had career courses or career counseling? Yes No

If yes, please give date and describe. _____

Have you applied to a college or vocational school within the last year? Yes No

If yes, list the school: _____ Have you been accepted? Yes No

When do you plan to begin? _____

Section 3: You and the New Opportunity School for Women

Note: Please understand that this three-week residential program generally requires physical activities including but not limited to walking (i.e. walking to and from classes, fieldtrips, etc.), climbing stairs, and sitting for long periods of time (i.e. in class, riding in a vehicle, etc.). The New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College takes very seriously its role as host to all participants each session which requires that each participant must conduct herself in a safe and productive manner.

How did you hear about the New Opportunity School for Women? _____

There is a limited amount of money available for child care and travel expenses.

Please list the total amount of money require for travel expenses to come to Banner Elk for the three-week session, if any. _____

Please list the total amount of money required for child care expenses while in Banner Elk for the three-week session, if any. _____

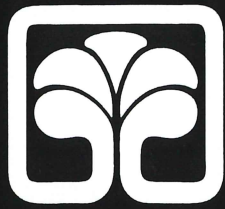
Section 4: Essay and Recommendations

Attach to this application two letters of recommendation from people who know you well (i.e. ministers, teachers, employers, social workers, volunteer coordinators, or relatives). Please ask that they describe their relationship to you, how long they have known you, and why they feel you would be a good candidate for this program. They should also include their contact information and phone number on their letter.

Please explain why you want to attend the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College and how you think it will help you. Feel free to discuss any unique circumstances that you think merit consideration. Without this personal statement and two letters of recommendation, your application will not be considered. You may attach extra sheets of paper.

If selected, I agree to attend the entire three-week program of the New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College and participate fully in all scheduled activities.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____



New Opportunity School for Women at Lees-McRae College



Make the **CHOICE** to **IMPROVE** your life.
Embrace the **FREEDOM** of **SUCCESS**.

What is the New Opportunity School?

Founded in 1987 in Berea, KY, this organization seeks to improve the educational, financial and personal circumstances of low-income women in the Appalachian region. Each summer the program welcomes up to fourteen women for a free three-week residential program that allows the women to explore career options, educational goals, and leadership development, and also participate in a self-esteem boosting curriculum.

Applications accepted throughout the year.
To learn more, visit lmc.edu/nosw.

Banner Elk, North Carolina | lmc.edu/nosw | 828.898.8905

How can I apply?

You may download an application online at lmc.edu/nosw or to have a paper application mailed to you, please contact Jennie Harpold, director of the NOSW, at 828.898.8905 or harpoldj@lmc.edu.

How much does it cost?

There is no cost for attending the New Opportunity School for Women. Rooms and meals will be provided and grants for travel and childcare are available; however, childcare cannot be provided on campus during the three-week school.

Who is eligible? Women who...

- are from the southern Appalachian region, including North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.
- have completed high school or have a GED but do NOT have a college degree.
- are approximately between the ages of 30 and 55.
- are of low income.
- demonstrate motivation and eagerness to learn.
- are committed to remaining on campus for the entire three-week program, including weekends.

What will you experience and learn?

Career Development

Internships
Résumé Writing
Interview Skills
Interest/Personality Inventories
Computer Basics
Leadership Development

Educational Development

Appalachian Literature
Women's Health Issues
Creative Writing
Journaling
Public Speaking
Professional Mentoring

Personal Development

Building Self Esteem
Professional Presentation
Makeovers
Interview Wardrobe
Self-Defense

Cultural Development

Regional Field Trips
Pot Luck Suppers
Campus Activities
Theatre/Arts

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