NEWSLETTER

Office of Sponsored Programs & Title III

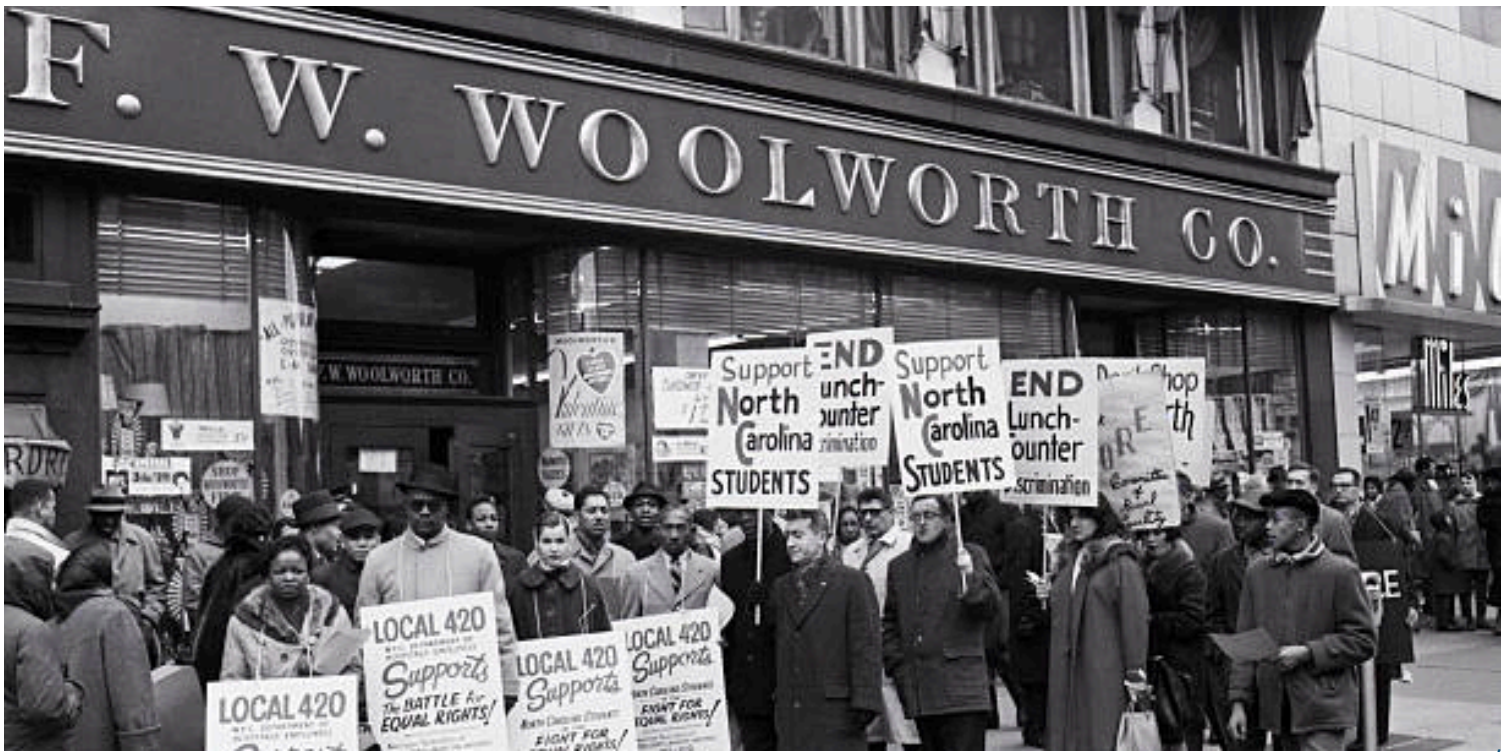
FEBRUARY 2024

Black History Month

BENNETT COLLEGE LIBRARY: A LIVING ARCHIVE AND HUB OF BLACK HISTORY

Bennett College holds a significant place in Black history as one of the historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that played a vital role in African American women's education. Notably, on February 1, 1960, four African American students from North Carolina A&T State University initiated the sit-in at Woolworth's lunch counter, sparking peaceful protests against racial segregation. Bennett College students joined the movement, demonstrating their commitment to justice and equality.

Bennett College commemorates and builds upon this historical moment through various events and programs. These initiatives honor past students' contributions and testify to the ongoing commitment to social justice and equality. Moreover, Bennett College's library is a history repository, housing a collection of compelling pictures and articles that chronicle the infamous February 1 movement at the Woolworth's lunch counter. Within its walls, students and scholars have access to a visual and written archive that vividly captures the courage and determination of Bennett College students during this pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. For more information, contact Joan Williams, Library Director, at jwilliams@bennett.edu, or Jocelyne Caldera, Archivist, at jcaldera@bennett.edu.



BEYOND REPORTING: ILLUMINATING BENNETT'S PATH WITH DATA-DRIVEN EXCELLENCE

In the role of overseeing Bennett's mandatory reporting, Mr. Brian Auriti, Director of Institutional Planning, Assessment, Effectiveness, and Research (IPAER), also serves as the crucial "data liaison" for the entire college. The primary objective is to guarantee that accurate and timely data is readily available for informed decision-making across all departments at Bennett. A commitment to utilizing data for the optimal service of students and the college takes precedence. Responsibilities encompass spearheading annual unit assessment planning, conducting comprehensive course evaluations, and compiling diverse data points concerning Bennett–from enrollment and retention statistics to analyzing the efficacy of new policies. Beyond routine reporting tasks, the role distinguishes itself with its campus-wide reach, fostering collaborative connections with every department, making it a dynamic and engaging aspect of the job.

During the January 2024 Faculty & Staff Institute, Mr. Auriti led a workshop with Dean Sara Wrenn; they encouraged all college work units to reflect on their available data and its alignment with their mission. He stated, "Whether qualitative or quantitative, data can illuminate various aspects of a unit's work, such as the number of students served, per-student expenditure, or user satisfaction." Moreover, he emphasized the value of data for providing answers and inspiring questions. For more information, contact Mr. Auriti at bauriti@bennett.edu to discuss unit data, data needs, or assistance framing and presenting unit data.

