



Birthingways

The Newsletter of Birthingway College of Midwifery

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2021 Midwifery Graduates

Winter 2021

Jillian Hamilton

Spring 2021

Dana Slaughterbeck

Fall 2021

Savannah Stone

Congratulations, Midwifery Graduates!

Completing the midwifery program is an enormous accomplishment and rite of passage, requiring great perseverance, sacrifice, and deep love for the work.

We feel such sadness that we were not able to celebrate these new midwives in person again this year due to the pandemic. We are so proud of our graduates for all they've accomplished and for all the amazing work we know they will do!

Front Office

While we no longer have a front office that is open to the public, we welcome you to reach out to us with questions and paperwork via phone 503-760-3131 or email at info@birthingway.edu.



Calendar

JANUARY 3

Winter Term Begins

JANUARY 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Closure Day

MARCH 21

Spring 2022 Registration Begins

MARCH 27

Winter Term Ends

MARCH 29

Spring Break Begins

APRIL 10

Spring Break Ends

APRIL 11

Spring Term Begins

MAY 30

Memorial Day Closure

JULY 3

Spring Term Ends

JULY 4

Independence Day Closure

Birthingway Board of Directors Update



Thank You, Carrie McCormick

After 20 years of service, Carrie McCormick recently stepped down from Birthingway's Board of Directors. Carrie has held every imaginable role at the school -- she was a member of our very first student cohort, served as a faculty member, worked on staff as Faculty Coordinator, and spent two decades on the Board. Carrie's love for midwifery and for Birthingway is woven into the very fabric of the school. We deeply appreciate all that she's given to our students, staff, and community. Thank you, Carrie!

Thank you, Kyla Patterson-Carstensen

After serving on the Board for four years, Kyla stepped down from the board to complete her midwifery degree at Birthingway. We are grateful for Kyla's continued service as the student representative to the Board.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE CONCERNING FUTURE OF MIDWIFERY PROGRAM

In December 2021, the Birthingway Board of Directors met in an executive session to discuss several issues impacting the future of the college. After a thorough and thoughtful evaluation of all options, the Board came to the tough decision not to move forward with our online program and not to accept new students. It is with sadness and broken hearts that we share this news.

We will continue our teach-out commitment to our currently enrolled students. No new applications will be accepted.

Birthingway has trained practitioners of the midwifery arts and sciences for close to 30 years. During that time, we've experienced and witnessed a lot of change both internally and in the external landscape of midwifery and higher education. Despite the challenging circumstances leading to the decision of the Board, we would like to highlight the hard work and unwavering dedication of our staff. While successfully navigating the pandemic they also built a virtual, relationship-centered, competency-based program that would have been ready to launch in 2022. We are disappointed that the large group of new, excited, and engaged students will not be able to enroll in the program our staff worked so hard to create. While we are sad to know this work will not move forward, we understand the circumstances faced by the board, the care taken in their deliberations, and we support their decision not to accept new cohorts.



A NOTE FROM HOLLY

From the school's birth around my dining room table in 1993, through years of in-person learning, and most recently, embracing online courses, Birthingway has responded with resilience and dedication in fulfilling our mission – to educate excellent practitioners of the midwifery arts and sciences.

Our past students bring extensive knowledge, skillful hands, and committed hearts to their work, helping birthing people and their families through the life-changing experiences of childbirth. I am proud of every one of them!

As we all move forward, the need for physiology-based midwifery care and support for informed choice will only grow. I'm optimistic that a new generation of midwifery educators and enthusiastic students will meet those needs.

Warmly,

Holly Scholles
Founder and President



A MESSAGE FROM AMY

I want to thank each of our prospective students for their hard work and determination through the last few months. It's been a joy to work with you. We are committed to our teach-out plan for our current students and to continue to support and encourage our prospective students on their continued midwifery journey.

Details on the MEAC accredited midwifery schools in the US and more information are detailed on the Birthingway website. We've also included the information on the next page of this newsletter. Please email me with any questions at outreach@birthingway.edu through 1/28 and info@birthingway.edu after this Friday.

With Gratitude,
Amy Russell, Outreach Coordinator



MEAC ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

Compare MEAC schools below and visit the [MEAC website](#) for more information.

PROGRAM	CERTIFICATE	DEGREE	LENGTH OF PROGRAM	ANNUAL TUITION	FAFSA	DISTANCE	CAMPUS	HYBRID
Bastyr University Midwifery Program		MSM	3 years	\$27,253	X	X		X
Commonsense Childbirth School	X		3 years	\$9,000				X
Florida School of Traditional Midwifery	X		3 years	\$8,704	X	X	X	
Mercy in Action College of Midwifery		BSM	4 years	\$5,323		X		
Midwives College of Utah		BSM & MSM	2/4 years	\$7,260	X	X		X
National College of Midwifery)		BSM	Approx 2.5	Total \$9,000		X		
National Midwifery Institute	X		3 years	\$6,500		X		
Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery	X		3 years	\$7,150			X	X
SW Wisconsin Technical College Direct Entry Midwife Program		Assoc in Applied Science	2 years	\$9,282 to \$13,923	X	X	X	X

WHAT IS ACCREDITATION & WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

The purpose of midwifery accreditation is to ensure that programs are performing at the highest level of quality and providing learning experiences that will lead to optimal outcomes for students.

To achieve accreditation, programs must meet rigorous standards developed by professionals in the field and integrate a lengthy list of curricular components. Midwifery schools that choose to undergo accreditation do so because of their commitment to excellence in the field. There are many benefits of accreditation to schools, students, and consumers.

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council's (MEAC) standards for accreditation were developed by expert midwifery educators from a variety of midwifery educational programs in the United States. It is a membership organization comprised of institutions and programs accredited by MEAC.

MEAC is authorized as an accreditor of direct-entry midwifery programs by the US Department of Education. Their purpose is to establish standards and criteria for the education of competent midwives and to provide a process for self-evaluation and peer evaluation for diverse educational programs. MEAC standards incorporate the nationally recognized core competencies and guiding principles set by the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA), the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and the requirements for national certification of the North American Registry of Midwives.

MEAC's accreditation criteria for midwifery education programs reflect the unique components and philosophy of the Midwives Model of Care. Creativity, innovation, and flexibility are the hallmarks of CPM education. Accredited schools also must demonstrate organizational and financial stability.

WHY WE NEED MIDWIVES

Did you know that the United States is the leader in maternal and infant deaths in the developed world?

What is the answer to solving this tragedy?

MORE MIDWIVES!



The traditional midwifery model emphasizes the use of intellect, intuition, and judgment to integrate new medical approaches with age-old, wise woman practices. Midwives address the troubling reality of maternal and infant mortality, especially focused in our BIPOC communities because cultural humility and respect are integral to midwifery.

Excellent midwives address health inequities and improve outcomes for all childbearing people and their families. By focusing on how we can center the midwife in the fight for equitable and sustainable global healthcare, we can work to achieve sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.