

First Name: Sara
School: Salem College
Graduation Date: May 25, 2014
Address: 306 S. Church Street
Gender: female
Phone: 321.961.7374

Last Name: Otero
Date of Birth: 09/05/1991
Race: Hispanic/Latina
Email: sara.otero@salem.edu

As a college student, what three issues concern you most in Winston-Salem, and why?

1. the lack of connection between colleges and universities and W/S -- we could support one another, share resources, and become a more vibrant W-S community if we begin to establish closer relationships between our campuses.
2. public transportation does not meet the needs of students -- therefore, it is difficult for students without their own transportation to actually begin to establish those close ties with out institutions. For example, as a Salem student, I can take classes at Wake Forest. However, I can only do so if I can provide my own transportation. For this reason, college students remain in their own campus "bubbles."
3. voter suppression in NC -- for the number years that we reside in W-S, North Carolina becomes our home. Many students choose to register to vote in NC and therefore become subject to NC legislation regarding voter suppression.

Explain a time when your college/university collaborated with the local community and how this experience benefitted both students and the public.

Some of my favorite events that Salem has taken part in include street fairs and festivals downtown, such as Rock the Block and Fiesta. This benefits students because they truly begin to feel like a part of the W-S community at large and it gives locals a chance to glimpse some of the remarkable talents and interests of Salem women. This is also a great opportunity for relationship building with other schools and organizations.

What change/effect do you plan to have on the local community before you graduate?

I plan to advocate for the three issues listed above through my role as Student Government Association President. Salem College has always been an integral part of the W-S community even before union of Winston and Salem, since 1772. Before graduation, I will continue to honor our own legacy while also gaining knowledge of and building relationships with the greater W-S community. This will allow my institution to become an even more integral part to the city of Winston long after Commencement.

Signature: Sara Otero

Date: 08/16/13