Making the Non-Traditional Traditional: Supporting College Students with Children

Los Angeles Valley College
About IWPR’s Student Parent Success Initiative

SPSI focuses on supporting students with dependent children who are pursuing college.

- Raises awareness of the need for student parent supports.
- Shares strategies that help low-income parents succeed in PSE.
- Provides technical assistance to community colleges & other stakeholders.
30% of All Community College Students are Parents

Number of Student Parents at Public Two-Year Institutions by Sex and Marital Status, 2011/12

- **Student Mothers**
  - 600,000 Single
  - 900,000 All student parents

- **Student Fathers**
  - 400,000 Single
  - 200,000 All student parents

Student Parents Face Significant Financial Need while in Community College

~70% live with low-incomes and 42% live in poverty.

...Compared with 57% and 32% of two-year students overall.

After all aid, student parents have ~$3,700 in unmet financial need.

...$500 more than two-year students overall.

60% have no money of their own or from their families to pay for college.

...Compared with 41% of two-year students overall.

Housing & Food Insecurity are Common for Student Parents

Housing Insecure

Student Parents: 63%
Non-parents: 45%

Food Insecure

Student Parents: 63%
Non-parents: 53%

Note: Data are for community college students.
Source: Goldrick-Rab, Richardson, and Hernandez. 2017. Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education.
Job Training Participants Value Child Care Support, but Need More

64% of mothers & 46% of fathers in job training reported facing child care problems.

90% of job training participants who reported receiving services that were important to their ability to complete said that they valued child care support the most.

Among job training participants with unmet support needs, 38% said that child care was the support they needed most.

Only 26% of Parents in Community College Attain a Credential in 6 years

Share of Community College Students Who Attained a Degree or Certificate within 6 Years of Enrollment, 2003-09

Key Policy Supports for Student Parents

- Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS)
- Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
- Early Head Start / Child Care Partnerships
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Targeted state funding – e.g. Minnesota & New York
After becoming a parent at a young age, I didn’t think I would ever attend college, so it means **everything** to me. After I complete, I can support my family and hopefully be a role model to my daughter.”

Source: IWPR Survey of Women in Mississippi’s Community and Technical Colleges
Los Angeles Community College District

- 9 Community Colleges
- Covering 900 Square Miles
- 135,000 Students Enrolled
- 35% of Students are Parents

[Map of California with Los Angeles highlighted]

- Latino: 57%
- White: 16%
- African-American: 14%
- Asian: 13%
LACCD Student Body Snapshot

- Transfer: 51%
- Full Time: 27%
- Non-Native English Speaking: 19%
- Living Below Poverty Line: 51%
- 25-34 Years Old: 24%
Women: 58%
Parents: 29%
First Generation: 36%
25 or older: 45%

Enrollment: 18,600
Creating a Family Friendly Campus

• Leverage Existing Campus Resources
• What’s Different?
• What’s Working?
  – CARE – CalWORKS
  – Workforce Training – FRC
  – Helping Hands – Food Forward
  – Study Lounge – ASU
Mission:

• Support workforce and student parents at LAVC

• Reduce barriers to higher education for underserved populations

• Advance social and economic mobility
Workforce Training Department
Established 1994

The City of Los Angeles Workforce Strategy Center, serving all 18 AJCC’s in LA County. Industry driven WIOA funded Academies.

- Metro Bridge Academy
- Tool and Manufacturing
- Medical Biotech
- Human Services Academy
- LA Fellows with Professional Development
Strengthening Working Families

- Work/Life/Stress Balance Workshop
  - Mental health and wellness
  - Surveys
- Individual counseling/referral sessions
  - 51% request counseling
- Family Resource Center supports available to all participants.
  - 45% participants have kids
Stay In Touch!

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