



Newsletter
February 2011

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

In This Issue

- [Activities & Publications](#)
- [Student Parents and Supports in the News](#)
- [Other Research](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Contact](#)

Quick Links

[SPSI Website](#)
[Project Description](#)
[Resources & Publications](#)
[Events & Appearances](#)
[Media](#)



[Join](#) SPSI's Facebook page to stay up to date on news & events.



[Follow](#) IWPR on Twitter for more news about issues that impact women, families, and communities.

Despite winter weather in many parts of the country, it's been a busy month for the SPSI project and, judging from the developments below, for many others similarly focused on student parents. Some highlights include:

- An upcoming report from IWPR about child care access for student parents at community colleges and a related event;
- Organizing by student parents at the University of Washington to improve and expand supports for student parents; and
- New research from the National Bureau of Economic Research documenting the effects of welfare reform on vocational education and training among low-income women,

As always, please feel free to forward this email to interested friends or colleagues or to contact us to share updates or information relevant to student parents, advocates, and service providers around the country. We are thrilled with the positive response and level of interest expressed by you and others since we launched the network in December--keep those ideas and suggestions coming!

Activities & Publications

- **IWPR Roundtable on Women and the Economy, March 9, 2011, 12:00 pm:** The SPSI project is organizing the March Roundtable discussion on Women and the Economy. Although the discussion will focus more broadly on issues related to low-income women and their pursuit of postsecondary education, the discussion will also highlight topics specific to student parents.

- **SPSI Report Release and Panel Discussion, March 23, 2011:** IWPR will host a lunchtime panel discussion to coincide with the release of its report, "Improving Child Care Access to Promote Postsecondary Success among Low-Income Parents." Featured panelists will include Sherrill Mosee, President and founder of Family Care Solutions, Inc and Todd Boressoff, founder of Early Childhood Consultancies, as well as report author and IWPR Senior Research Associate, Kevin Miller. Key administration officials have also been invited to join us for the event. More details on time and location to follow.
- **NAPE Professional Development Institute, April 14, 2011:** IWPR staff from the SPSI project will be presenting at this year's National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) Professional Development Institute, in conjunction with partners from CLASP, Family Care Solutions and the Institute for Higher Education Policy. The session, ***Student Parents: Obstacles and Opportunities***, will explore both the challenges presented to student parents as they strive to achieve postsecondary degrees and certificates, as well as some of the policy, programmatic and institutional supports available to encourage success among this population, a majority of whom do not graduate within six years of initial enrollment. For more information on the event, including registration costs, please visit NAPE's website: <http://www.napequity.org/page.php?328>

Student Parents And Supports in the News

- ["Kids Are All Right."](#) Inside Higher Ed; February 22nd, 2011.
- ["State cracking down on college students who get food stamps."](#) *The Detroit News*; February 9, 2011.
- ["New GPSS Task Force Recommends Increasing Resources."](#) *The Daily*; January 31, 2011.
- ["GPSS Backed Bill Helps Student Parents."](#) *In Defense of Our Future* blog; February 14, 2011.
- [Access Isn't Enough: The Need to Insure Low-Income Students.](#) Spotlight on Poverty and Economic Opportunity, Commentary by Sandy Baum, February 1, 2011.
- [Better Communication Resolves Eviction Issue.](#) *The Daily Californian*; January 24, 2011.

Other Research

- [Effects of Welfare Reform on Vocational Education and Training.](#) National Bureau of Economic Research, January 2011.
- [Turning the Tide: Five Years of Achieving the Dream in Community Colleges.](#) MDRC publication, February 2011.

[The Student Parent Success Initiative \(SPSI\)](#), a project of the [Institute for Women's Policy Research](#), is designed to improve supports and services for student parents seeking postsecondary education. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, SPSI serves to initiate new research, raise awareness on the need for student parent supports, and foster communication and collaboration among advocates, policymakers, educators, and practitioners.

IWPR SPSI Staff Contacts

Barbara Gault, Executive Director and Vice President
gault@iwpr.org

Kevin Miller, Senior Research Associate
miller@iwpr.org

Jane Henrici, Study Director
henrici@iwpr.org

Tiffany Boiman, Senior Outreach and Policy Associate
boiman@iwpr.org

Michelle Dovil, Research Intern
dovil@iwpr.org

Samuel Myers, Research and Outreach Assistant
myers@iwpr.org