

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

In This Issue

- [Activities and Publications of the Student Parent Success Initiative](#)
- [Student Parents and Supports in the News](#)
- [Legislative and Policy Round Up](#)
- [Other Research and Resources](#)
- [Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight](#)
- [Local Student Parent Activities and Events](#)
- [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.

As the election and budget seasons kick into high gear and some of us lament what is shaping up to be a winter free of snow here in Washington, SPSI is in the process of rolling out a number of new events and resources, including a new fact sheet on literacy, a webinar about student parents and online learning, and a full-length report examining women and student parents in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) at community colleges.

Some highlights from this month's newsletter include:

- The IWPR events and publications described above;
- New research on the relationship between student engagement in college-level programs of study and community college completion rates;
- Information on the President's budget and implications for key federal programs; and
- A featured program out of Connecticut that promotes women's engagement in STEM programs at the community college level.

As always, please feel free to forward this e-mail 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.

Activities and Publications of the Student Parent Success Initiative

- **SPSI will host a webinar, "Online Learning and Student Parents: Benefits, Challenges and Future Directions," on Monday, February 27.** The webinar will highlight preliminary findings from a coming report by IWPR and Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) that addresses how online learning can be used a vehicle for enhancing the academic experience of student parents. The speakers will include Kevin Miller, Senior Research Associate at IWPR, Mary Gatta, a Senior Scholar at WOW, Frank Mayadas, Senior Advisor at the Sloan Foundation and Alexandra Pickett, the Associate Director of the SUNY Learning Network. For more information about the event, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#)!
- **The Student Parent Success Initiative released a new fact sheet, "Low Literacy Means Lower Earnings," this month.** The fact sheet reveals that men with low literacy levels earn more than women with low literacy levels, and that women need to attain higher levels of literacy to make wages comparable to those of men with lower levels of literacy. To download a PDF of the full fact sheet, click [here](#)!
- **Student Parent Success Initiative's newest report, Promoting Opportunities for Low-Income Women and Student Parents in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math at Community Colleges, will be released next month!** More details about the report-and the accompanying March 20th release event-to come.

Student Parents and Supports in the News

- [Does a College Education Have to Cost So Much?](#) *NPR*, December 14, 2012.
- [How Can Colleges Help Teen Moms and Dads?](#) *The Washington Post*, December 22, 2011.
- [10 Best Schools for Student Parents.](#) *Winona Daily News*, January 2012.
- [Diapers, Daycare, and Dissertations.](#) *The McGill Daily*, January 19, 2012.
- [County Receives Grant to Help At-Risk, First-Time Moms.](#) *The Pine Journal*, January 28, 2012
- [Arapahoe Community College Receives \\$20,000 Grant from the Denver Foundation.](#) *Our Littleton News*, February 1, 2012.

Legislative and Policy Round Up

- President Obama highlighted higher education-specifically community colleges-during his recent State of the Union Address. Drawing on his existing proposals regarding college affordability,

President Obama advocated for increased funding of community colleges as well as an intensified focus on community colleges transforming themselves into "community career centers" by forging partnerships with local businesses. The president also called on states to increase funding for public universities in order to defray the rising cost of tuition. For more information about the State of the Union and the Obama's administration's agenda for higher education, click [here](#).

- President Obama's FY 2013 budget also maintains a focus on higher education, proposing an \$8 billion "Community College to Career Fund" that would support partnerships between community colleges, state governments, and local businesses to train 2 million workers in high-growth industries. The budget also works toward increasing college affordability with \$36.1 million going to fully funding Pell grants and \$1 billion being allocated to a *Race to the Top: College Affordability and Completion* fund. In addition to creating a new child care quality fund, the budget also keeps federal funding for child care and Head Start at the higher ARA funding levels, reflecting the administration's continued interest in early childhood education. However, the budget does eliminate funding for Women's Apprenticeship in Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO), a federal grant program for community organizations that provide training for women in nontraditional occupations. For more information about the changes to higher education proposed by President Obama's 2013 budget, please click [here](#). For more information about the budget and its elimination of WANTO, please click [here](#). For a full overview of the budget, please click [here](#).

Other Research and Resources

- [Adult Education Funding Levels and Enrollment](#), CLASP, February 2012.
- [Get With the Program: Accelerating Community College Students' Entry into and Completion of Programs of Study](#), Community College Research Center, January 2012.
- [Pregnancy Harassment Is Sexual Harassment: FAQs About Title IX and Pregnancy Harassment](#), National Women's Law Center, January 2012.
- [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education: Strategic Planning Needed to Better Manage Overlapping Programs Across Multiple Agencies](#), Government Accountability Office, January 2012.
- [Child Care Cuts Continue in 2012](#). National Women's Law Center, January 2012.
- [The State of Young America: Key Facts](#), Demos, January 2012.
- [Benefits of High Quality Child Care Persist 30 Years Later](#). *Medical Express*, January 2012.

Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight

The Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (RCNGM) is working to meet a rising call for

highly skilled, technical workers in the manufacturing industry. The program operates by providing help to 12 Connecticut community colleges to prepare students for STEM careers in everything from green technology and lasers and photonics to precision machining and alternative energy. Students have the opportunity to earn stackable credits, leading to certificates and associate's degrees. Because of the unique relationship between these community colleges and four year institutions, credit is never lost when a student transfers in order to earn a bachelor's degree. Student parents have found this approach particularly beneficial because it allows them to enroll part-time in a particular program. On-campus child care is offered at all twelve schools, along with financial aid, including emergency funds and scholarships, academic advising, and a curriculum designed to offer participants an education that will serve them well in their future industry careers.

Local Student Parent Activities and Events

- Lewiston Adult Education (LAE) is accepting applications for their winter/spring college transitions program in Lewiston, ME. The program is designed to help non-traditional students prepare for postsecondary education, and enrollment is free for any resident who has a GED or high school diploma. For more information about the LAE and the college transitions program, click [here](#).
- Clatsop Community College and the Seaside and Astoria Branches of the American Association of University Women are hosting the Women Interested in Going to School Conference March 3rd at Clatsop College in Astoria, OR. The conference works to encourage and facilitate women's re-entry to college and will include session on topics such as financial aid, support programs and distance learning. For more information about WINGS, please click [here](#).

About Us

[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

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

Barbara Gault, Executive Director and Vice President

gault@iwpr.org

Rhiana Gunn-Wright, Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellow

gunn-wright@iwpr.org

Jane Henrici, Study Director

henrici@iwpr.org

Kevin Miller, Senior Research Associate

miller@iwpr.org

Mackenzie Becker, Research Assistant

becker@iwpr.org