



## Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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As summer continues to swelter in many parts of the country, SPSI activities and policy developments here in Washington continue to heat up as well. Stay tuned for more news on these fronts as we move into fall.

Some highlights from this month's update include:

- An upcoming SPSI webinar addressing the benefits of integrated service delivery for low-income student parents attending community colleges;
- New federal legislation to encourage women's entry into non-traditional jobs and to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act; and,
- A new standard feature in the update that will showcase different programs and organizations serving student parents.

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. 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! In the near term, we are particularly interested in your ideas for webinar topics that merit further explorations and web resources that you would find useful!

## Activities & Publications

- On June 14, 2011, IWPR co-sponsored a book event for author Virginia Eubanks' recently-released [Digital Dead End: Fighting for Social Justice in the Information Age](#). See our blog post on the event [here](#).
- Please save the date! SPSI will co-sponsor a webinar in conjunction with CLASP and SingleStop USA on **Monday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. E.T.**, featuring experts who will speak about the benefits of integrated service delivery models for student parents on community college campuses. More details to follow.

On June 23, SPSI presented on the needs of student parents along with Women Employed (Chicago, Illinois) at the Student Parent Success Symposium, hosted by Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Topics included child care, financial aid, examples of promising programs, and the need to bundle services and information so that parents can more easily access the resources they need to succeed in college. Click [here](#) to view a PowerPoint presentation by Kevin Miller, IWPR Senior Research Associate.

## Student Parents in the News

- [Child Care Crisis Holding Back Dreams of Many Immigrant Women](#). *Inside Toronto*, June 3, 2011
- [Community-College Students Mobilize on Campus to Improve Graduation Rates](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 22, 2011
- [Regina Carlos From Near High School Dropout to a Degree in Nursing](#). *Diablo Valley College*, Spring 2011
- [Costlier Community Colleges](#). *Inside Higher Education*, June 30, 2011.
- [A Single Mother Celebrates Her Graduation](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, June 20, 2011.

## Student Parent Funding Opportunities and Other Events of Interest

- National Coalition for College Completion launched in June 2011. For more information on the

mission and activities of the National Coalition for College Completion, spearheaded by the Institute for Higher Education Policy, please click [here](#).

- [Scholarships for Nontraditional Students](#). Yahoo, June 21, 2011.

## Policy and Legislative Round Up

- Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions scheduled a mark up of Workforce Investment Act reauthorization legislation for [July 20, 2011](#). The National Skills Coalition has conducted analysis of the provisions contained within each Title. For more information, click [here](#).
- Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced the H.R. 4830, the Women WIN Jobs Act, to facilitate women's entry into high-skill, high-wage non-traditional jobs. For more information about the bill and its provisions, click [here](#).
- As discussions continue in Washington about options for cutting spending, concern among advocates about the future of Pell Grants continues to grow. See below for commentary and planned action steps to preserve Pell Grants for the nation's at-risk students:
  - [Reality Check: Nation Cannot Afford Pell Cuts for Nontraditional Students](#). CLASP, June 2011.
  - As part of their campaign to prevent cuts to the Pell Grant program, Young Invincibles is seeking student testimonials to illustrate the importance of Pell Grants. To learn more, or contribute a testimonial, please click [here](#).

## Other Research & Resources

- [The Undereducated American](#). Georgetown University, Center on Education on the Workforce, June 27, 2011.
- [Not Just Kid Stuff Anymore: The Economic Imperative for More Adults to Complete College](#). CLASP, June 2011.
- [Affordability and Transfer: Critical to Increasing Baccalaureate Degree Completion](#). The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, June 2011.
- [Beyond Financial Aid: Guide to Extra Help for Low-Income Adult Students](#). Crittenton Women's Union, September 2010.
- [Single Mother Poverty Rates Remain Exceptionally High Even When Food Stamps and Earned Income Credits Are Counted](#). Legal Momentum, June 2011.
- [The Cost of Learning: How Public Benefits Create Pathways to Education](#). Spotlight on Poverty and Opportunity, June 2011.
- [Initial College Attendance of Low-Income Young Adults](#). Institute for Higher Education Policy, June 2011.

## Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight

*This is a new feature in our monthly update. In each issue, we'll showcase a different program responsible for serving student parents in some way. Please feel free to submit your suggestions!*

The [Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training \(I-BEST\) program](#), developed by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical colleges (SBCTC), integrates basic skills training with a professional-technical curriculum so that students who need extra help with reading, writing, and math can proceed to college-level courses that are designed to meet their specific needs. The program targets non-traditional students, including student parents, who comprise nearly one-quarter of I-BEST students (24 percent). I-BEST students qualify for Washington's opportunity grants, which can be used towards tuition, books, and fees. Students can also utilize funds towards emergency child care, emergency transportation, college and career counseling, tutoring, and college success classes. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has singled out I-BEST as a promising program for TANF parents transitioning from welfare to work. I-BEST students are almost four times more likely to earn an occupational certificate than other basic skills students according to the Community College Research Center. To view a video of an I-BEST program at Skagit Valley College, click [here](#).

[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](mailto:gault@iwpr.org)

**Kevin Miller, Senior Research Associate**  
[miller@iwpr.org](mailto:miller@iwpr.org)

**Jane Henrici, Study Director**  
[henrici@iwpr.org](mailto:henrici@iwpr.org)

**Tiffany Boiman, Senior Outreach and Policy Associate**  
[boiman@iwpr.org](mailto:boiman@iwpr.org)

**Layla Moughari, Policy Analyst**  
[moughari@iwpr.org](mailto:moughari@iwpr.org)

**Michelle Dovil, Research Intern**  
[dovil@iwpr.org](mailto:dovil@iwpr.org)

Jennifer Herard, Research Intern  
[herard@iwpr.org](mailto:herard@iwpr.org)