



Newsletter
March 2011

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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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.

- **Improving Outcomes for Low-Income Student Parents: The Role of Child Care Access on College Campuses:** Please join the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) for a special event to discuss the role of child care in promoting higher education among low-income parents. The discussion will include a presentation of findings from IWPR's new report *Improving Child Care Access to Promote Postsecondary Success among Low-Income Parents* and will address policy and program interventions intended to improve child care access, as well as the challenges faced by student parents attempting to improve their credentials. Distinguished speakers will include: keynote speaker, Joan Lombardi, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary and Inter-Departmental Liaison for Early Childhood Development, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Sherrill Mosee, President and founder of Family Care Solutions, Inc., Philadelphia, and President of the Higher Education Alliance of Advocates for Students with Children; Todd Boressoff, President of Early Childhood Consultancies and former policy chair of the National Coalition of Campus Child Care Centers and Kevin Miller, Ph.D., IWPR Senior Research Associate and report author. **The event will take place at the SEIU Conference Center from 12:00-2:00 p.m., 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. Please register [here](#).**
- **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

- ["Eastern Michigan University program offers single parents a home on campus."](#) *Detroit Free Press*; March 1, 2011.
- ["Supporters Rally for LBCC Child Center."](#) *Albany Democrat Herald*; March 3, 2011.
- ["Child care bill would provide more aid for student-parents."](#) *The Daily*; March 1, 2011.
- ["Single Stop USA Awarded White House Social Innovation Fund Grant."](#) *PRNewswire-USNewswire*; February 23, 2011.
- ["Child care center uses fees for employees, supplies."](#) *The Torch*; February 14, 2011.

Other Research

[Opening Doors to Student Success: A Synthesis of Findings from an Evaluation at Six Community Colleges.](#) MDRC publication, March 2011.

Student Parent Groups in the Spotlight – Upcoming Events

- **Generation Hope Sponsors Town Hall Discussion, April 28th, 2011, 6:00-8:30 PM:** A new non-profit organization, Generation Hope, will host a kickoff event at the Community College of the District of Columbia on April 28, 2011. Titled “Access in Action,” it is a Town Hall Meeting on the importance of college access and completion for teen parents and will feature a number of expert panelists. Registration is free, and can be accessed [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

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