Newsletter
May 2011

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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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 we gear up for a busy summer and year two of the project, plans are underway to expand SPSI's capacity for virtual and remote access events like webinars and conference calls. In addition, as we enter the next phase of the project, we expect to introduce more web content and greater functionality on the site. Stay tuned for more developments in the coming weeks and months.

Some highlights from this month's update include:

· An upcoming SPSI presentation highlighting child care demand and availability on college campuses at the June Student Parent Support Symposium in Columbus, Ohio;

· Expansions of and threats to supports for student parents at a number of schools around the country; and,

· New research highlighting opportunities to improve completion rates for unmarried 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 exploration and web resources that you would find useful.

Activities & Publications

2011 Student Parent Support Symposium, June 23-24, 2011
SPSI's Kevin Miller will present findings from the recent child care report at a joint panel session with Women Employed entitled, "Investing in Completion: Policies and Practices to Help Student Parents Complete." The panel is part of a symposium sponsored by the Ohio State University on the theme: "The Critical Role of Public Assistance & Quality Child Care in the Success of Student Parents in Higher Education."

Student Parent Events and Funding Opportunities

- **Patsy Takemoto Mink Foundation announces Education Support Awards.** The awards are intended to assist low-income women with children who are pursuing education or training. Apply online between May 15, 2011 and July 15, 2011.

- **Have Baby, Will Graduate: A Successful Retention for Single Parents at The Ohio State University.** Presentation (PowerPoint file) by Paula H. Smith, Ph.D., and Traci Lewis, M.S.W at 2011 National Association of Black Social Workers forty-third Annual Conference, April 2011.

Student Parents in the News

- UC Students Tap Food Pantry, *The Wall Street Journal*, April 21, 2011.
- Student-Parent Strives for Empirical Recognition, *The Temple News*, April 26, 2011.
- College Offers Services for Pregnant Students, *The Dartmouth*, April 21, 2011.
- On-Campus Child Care Became Scarcer in Recent Years, *Seattle PostGlobe*, April 21, 2011.
- Student Parents to Receive Further Support, *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, April 27, 2011.
- UW Students Bring Kids to Classes, Seek Child-Care Help, *The Seattle Times*, May 9, 2011.
- As the Regulatory World Spins, *Inside Higher Ed*, May 4, 2011.
- Adult Education Leaders Visit Capitol Hill to Push for More Federal Dollars, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 9, 2011.
- At Top Colleges, Diversity Not Just Black-White, *The Statesman*, April 28, 2011.

Other Research

- The Spring 2011 edition of *The Future of Children*, a journal produced jointly by Princeton University and the Brookings Institution, is devoted to articles showcasing issues affecting immigrant children, two of which highlight one subset of the student parent population:

    - "Higher Education and Children in Immigrant Families," and
    - "Immigrants in Community College."
- The Fall 2010 edition of the journal includes an article addressing the student parent population directly:
    - "Unmarried Parents in College."
- *Beyond Basic Skills: State Strategies to Connect Low-Skilled Students to an Employer-Valued Postsecondary Education*, Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), March 2011.
- *Complete to Compete: Improving Postsecondary Attainment Among Adults*, National Governors Association, Center for Best Practices, 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.

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