



Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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Here are some highlights from this month's newsletter:

- Several new publications are now available for download from our website, including the project's first toolkit that outlines models of campus-based child care;
- Updates on new legislation designed to extend child care to more families engaged in education or work activities; and
- A policy brief emphasizing the importance of access for all segments of the community college student population.

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.

Quick Links

- [SPSI Website](#)
- [Project Description](#)
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Activities and Publications of the Student Parent Success Initiative

- **Recent Presentation at National Association for Partnerships in Equity Conference.** IWPR Senior Research Associate Kevin Miller delivered a presentation on student parents as part of the joint panel session "Modernizing College to Address the Needs of Students with Children: Understanding the Student Parent Population, Promoting High-Quality Degrees, and Using Online Tools to Encourage Success," at the NAPE Professional Development Institute on April 17, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).
- **New Toolkit, *Varieties of Campus Child Care*.** The SPSI team rolled out the project's first toolkit, which catalogs the diversity within campus-based child care settings and is an especially

valuable resource for decision makers interested in undertaking or reconfiguring a campus-based child care center. To download the toolkit, click [here](#).

- **New Fact Sheets Now Available Online:**
 - [*Gender Segregation in Fields of Study at Community Colleges and Implications for Future Earnings*](#) highlights gender segregation in community college majors.
 - [*Single Student Parents Face Financial Difficulties, Debt Without Adequate Aid*](#) compares financial need and debt burden of student parents to non-parents.

[*Housing Resources and Programs for Single Student Parents at Community Colleges*](#) provides snapshots of a number of community based organizations and community colleges that provide housing and other supports to assist single student parents

Student Parents and Supports in the News

- [*"Fewer Women Pursuing STEM Fields," Dayton Daily News*](#), April 12, 2012.
- [*"MSU Students With Children Raise Awareness for Their Struggles," WILX News 10*](#), April 14, 2012
- [*"GWC Helps Student Parents to Succeed in College Studies," The Western Sun*](#), April 3, 2012.
- [*"GV Children Enrichment Centers Assists Student Parents," Grand Valley Lanthorn*](#), April 11, 2012.
- [*"Last Rites for Graduate Rate," Inside Higher ED*](#), April 12, 2012.
- [*"For Student Success, Stop Debating and Start Improving," The Chronicle of Higher Education*](#), April 8, 2012.

Legislative and Policy Round Up

- Representative Pete Stark (D-CA) introduced a bill on April 18, 2012 that would allow mothers with children as young as three years old to fulfill the work requirement under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) by staying at home to raise their children. Rep. Stark emphasized that the Women's Option to Raise Kids (WORK) Act would recognize the contributions made by mothers and would allow low-income mothers to stay at home without sacrificing their TANF benefits. Under the current law, staying home to raise children does not count towards the work requirement. For more information, [click here](#).
- President Obama signed the Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act into law on April 5, 2012. The new legislation seeks to support small businesses and encourage entrepreneurial startups by easing regulations and providing access to the capital

needed to create new businesses and jobs. For additional information on the JOBS Act, [click here.](#)

- The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, released its blueprint for transforming career and technical education through reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. For more information, [click here.](#)
- Rep. Jim McDermott introduced new legislation on April 27, 2012 that would ensure child care assistance families who were working or enrolled in education or training programs, provided their incomes were 200 percent of the federal poverty level or lower. For more information, [click here.](#)

Other Research and Resources

- [*The Best of Two Worlds: Lessons from a Community College-Community Organization Collaboration to Increase Student Success*](#), Jobs for the Future and Youth Development Institute, March 2012.
- [*Why Access Matters: The Community College Student Body*](#), American Association of Community Colleges, February 2012.
- [*Keeping Students on Course: An Impact Study of a Student Success Course at Guilford Technical Community College*](#), MDRC, April 2012.
- [*Closing the Door, Increasing the Gap: Who's Not Going to \(Community\) College?*](#), Center for the Future of Higher Education, April 2012.

Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight

From a forthcoming IWPR-SPSI fact sheet about the need for community colleges to partner with other programs and institutions to successfully provide career pathways for low-income student parents

"Carreras en Salud (Careers in Health) is a program of the Instituto del Progreso Latino (IPL) in Chicago that began in 2005 through a partnership among IPL, Association House (founded in 1899 to help immigrants), the National Council of La Raza, and Chicago's Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center of Wilbur Wright College -- one of Chicago's seven "city" colleges. Carreras-IPL operates with great success as a bilingual healthcare career pathway through community college coursework and licensing so that individuals, primarily women with Limited English Proficiency, can move up and into certified and higher paying positions. Carreras-IPL involves seven levels, each of which takes at least 16 weeks to complete, at which individuals can enter based upon their English proficiency and educational readiness for that level. Taking into account the multiple responsibilities of nontraditional students, particularly

working women, it is important that those who are enrolled can exit the pathway at any time and return to it later."

Upcoming Activities and Events

Generation Hope's first gala "Pep Rally Under the Stars" will take place on Friday, June 29, 2012 at the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center at the University of Maryland, College Park at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person or \$225 per couple and the proceeds will go to Generation Hope's Scholar Program, funding field trips, trainings, the Emergency Scholar Fund, and expenses to keep the program running. Sponsorships and table purchases are also available. The Scholar Program provides direct sponsorships and mentoring support to help teen mothers and teen fathers in the D.C. Metro area earn their college degrees. For more information, please [click here](#) or contact Nicole Lynn Lewis, Generation Hope Founder & CEO, at nicole@supportgenerationhope.org or 202-656-8704.

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.

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