



Student Parent
Success Initiative



Newsletter
November/December 2012

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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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.

Some highlights from this month's update include:

- A recent SPSI webinar about funding sources to support child care for college students with children;
- A new program for student parents at Central Michigan University; and
- A new report analyzing rising student debt.

Activities and Publications of the Student Parent Success Initiative

- The SPSI project hosted a webinar on Friday, November 30th, **Financing Child Care for College Students with Children: Opportunities to Support Two Generations of Learners**. The event highlighted a variety of federal, state, and local funding sources that have been harnessed to launch and maintain child care resources for college students, as well as findings from a forthcoming toolkit on financing child care for students with children, co-sponsored by IWPR and the National Coalition of Campus Children's Centers. To view the standalone slideshow or a combined audiovisual file from the event, [click here](#).

Student Parents and Supports in the News

- [New RSO plans to provide support, guidance for student parents](#). *Central Michigan Life*, November 4, 2012.
- *The Steve Harvey Show* (NBC) featured the Generation Hope, a scholarship and mentoring program for parents seeking college educations, on its [October 25th program](#).

- [A Study in Parenting: Grad students juggle work and kids - with help from their universities.](#) *Washington Post Express*, November 13, 2012.
- [Nontraditional student Toy and Clothing Exchange helps create awareness on a smaller campus community.](#) *Daily Emerald*, November 10, 2012.

Research and Resources

- [Snapshot Report: Degree Attainment](#), National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, Fall 2012
- [The Student Debt Crisis](#), Center for American Progress, October 25, 2012.
- [Pulling Apart: A State by State Analysis of Income Trends](#), Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, November 15, 2012.
- [Do Federally Assisted Households Have Access to High Quality Public Schools?](#) Poverty and Race Research Action Council, November 2012.

Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight

UCLA Students with Dependents

The [UCLA Bruin Resource Center's Students with Dependents Program](#) (SWD) was developed in 2009 when UCLA's Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Janina Montero, created the Bruin Resource Center, a department that provides services to underrepresented student populations including students with dependents, current and former foster youth, undocumented students, student veterans, and transfer students. As a part of Student Affairs, the program's mission is to promote the success, well-being, and personal development of UCLA student parents and their families. The SWD Program provides caring and personalized support to UCLA students who are parents, guardians, and caregivers at the undergraduate, graduate and professional school level. With a network of over 350 student parents, the program helps student parents navigate the university system and access resources within the university and larger community.

The SWD Program provides a number of resources for student parents, ranging from adjusting to the quarter system, to accessing child care, financial aid, and family housing. SWD also assists students with accessing and verifying public social services such as CalWorks (cash aid), CalFresh (food stamps) and Medi-Cal. In addition, SWD hosts events that work to foster a greater sense of social engagement and inclusion and that make student parents more visible to the campus community and connected to each other, including a quarterly Coffee Hour, annual student parent graduation celebration, and Ice Cream Social/Clothing Give-Away. Likewise, the program collaborated with other departments and student organizations to provide programming tailored to the specific needs of student parents, e.g., the "Stress Less Parenting" workshops that were developed in collaboration with Counseling and Psychological Services.

Lastly, the SWD program serves as a liaison between students and administrators, faculty and staff, advocating on behalf of student parents and in favor of changes that will make UCLA a more student parent -friendly university. Some recent examples include increasing the number of lactation spaces

for nursing mothers and hosting a "Writer's Block Party" in which volunteers provide free childcare, enrichment activities and food for the children of student parents, giving students an uninterrupted, four-hour period to work on writing dissertations or essays.

With retention and graduation rates as the cornerstone of the SWD program, UCLA is committed to providing the support student parents need to be successful scholars and parents.

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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