

Student Parent Success Initiative (SPSI) Update

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Although enjoying the sights and sounds of a beautiful fall here in Washington, the SPSI team is hard at work, preparing new reports highlighting the work of innovative organizations assisting student parents in their journey for higher education and monitoring relevant policy developments.

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.



[Join](#) SPSI's Facebook page to stay up to date on news & events.



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Student Parents and Supports in the News

- [Parents Struggle in School as Budget Cuts Put Limits on Campus Childcare](#). *The Orion*, October 10, 2011.
- [Bottles and Books: Students Balance Parenthood, School](#). *The Crimson White*, October 3, 2011.
- [Students Struggle with Limited Daycare Options](#). *The Daily Cougar*, September 27, 2011.
- [Lehman Breaks Ground on \\$6.3 Million Modular Child Care Center](#). *Lehman Today*, September 20, 2011.
- [Turning Early Steps into a Head Start](#). *Santa Clarita Valley Signal*, September 17, 2011.
- [Full Time Student Balances School Work and Parent Life](#). *North Carolina State Technician*, September 14, 2011.
- [Young People Hit Hard as U.S. Poverty Rate Increases to 15.1 Percent](#). *San Jose Mercury News*, September 13, 2011.

Student Parent Activities and Events of Interest



- **Hear IWPR's Executive Director and Vice President, Barbara Gault, discuss child care and early childhood education as part of "What's Missing in Early Childhood Education," a panel discussion sponsored by the New America Foundation.** To watch video of the presentations, please click [here](#). To learn more about New America's Early Education Initiative, please click [here](#).
- **New Horizons, an aid program at San Diego City College, is offering financial, academic and child care assistance to the campus' low-income students.** For more information, click [here](#).
- **Project Self-Sufficiency is hosting open enrollment appointments to help parents sign up for New Jersey Family Care, the state's insurance plan for low-income families.** For more information, click [here](#).
- **Parents as Students Support Group (PASS), the student parent support group at University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, is hosting weekly meetings this fall semester.** For more information about the group and a schedule of upcoming events, click [here](#).

Other Research and Resources

- [The Hidden Costs of Community Colleges](#), American Institutes for Research, October 2011.
- [Minorities in Higher Education: 2011 Supplement](#), American Council on Education, October 2011.
- [Time is the Enemy](#), Complete College America, September 2011.
- [Charting Pathways to Completion](#), Community College Research Center, September 2011.
- [Parents and the High Cost of Child Care](#), National Association of Child Care Resource and

Referral Agencies, August 2011.

- [Single Mothers and College Success: Creating Pathways Out of Poverty](#), Women Employed, August 2011.

Student Parent Programs in the Spotlight

In each issue, we showcase a different program responsible for serving student parents. Please feel free to submit your suggestions!

The Student Parent HELP Center at the University of Minnesota is designed to "promote access, retention, and academic success" among low-income undergraduate students with children. Established in 1967 as a means of helping traditionally underserved student populations, the program eventually evolved to focus specifically on the needs of student parents. The center's mission is to help these students build the economic stability of their families by increasing their earning potential through higher education. In order to achieve this, the HELP center has created a "one-stop shop" where student parents can quickly and easily access a broad range of services. At HELP, students can find a weekly Parent Academic Support and Community Building Group, child care assistance, emergency financial assistance, academic scholarships, academic and family based advocacy, resource and referral services, group and family activities, and counseling services. Students parents involved with HELP also work with teen mothers in the Twin Cities community, advising the girls on how to enter postsecondary education and bringing them to campus to participate in the center's annual "Student Parent Visibility Day."

For more information about the Student Parent HELP Center, please click [here](#).

Legislative and Policy Round Up

- **On September 8, the Senate Subcommittee on Children and Families held a hearing to investigate the quality of and safety of the nation's child care.** To watch the hearing, please click [here](#). To learn more about the Subcommittee and its issues, and to view videos of past hearings, click [here](#).
- **Appropriations Committees in the House and the Senate have begun to decide spending levels for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Head Start, two of the country's largest early childhood education programs.** While the preliminary budgets released by both chambers either maintain or slightly increase funding for these programs, there is still some pressure to reduce funding in order to keep pace with larger agendas of deficit reduction. For more information about the preliminary budgets, please click [here](#). For information about how you can get involved to preserve federal funding for child care and ECE, click [here](#).

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.

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

Rhiana Gunn-Wright, Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellow

gunn-wright@iwpr.org

Mackenzie Becker, Research Intern

becker@iwpr.org