It Takes a Village: New and Expectant Student Parent Support

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What We Will Cover Today

- WHY WE DO IT: Needs of new and expectant student Parents
- WHAT WE DO: Holistic advising and partnerships
- WHAT YOU CAN DO: Suggestions for support and advocacy on your campus
Undergraduate Student Parent Demographics at UC Berkeley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percentage of Student Parents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pell Grant</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Parents</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Parents</strong></td>
<td><strong>159</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversity Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>293</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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TOTAL (293)
NESP NEEDS AT UC BERKELEY
NESP Needs

• Physical Health and Accommodations
• Mental Health Support
• Introduction to the Student Parent Community
• Financial Aid Status Transitions
• Housing Transitions
• Academic Planning and Accommodations
• Childcare and Social Service Support
HOLISTIC ADVISING AND PARTNERSHIPS
Physical Health

- Insurance Options
  - Medi-Cal (ineligible until birth)
  - Campus insurance (some NESP coverage)
  - Parents’ insurance (student coverage through birth)
- University Health Services and Work and Family:
  - Breastfeeding Support Program
- Affordable Community Childbirth Classes
Introduction to the Student Parent Community

• It Takes a Village Education Course
• Events
  – Baby Bear Celebrations
• Peer Internships
  – Baby Bears at Cal
  – Freshman Student Parent Outreach
• Community Space
  – Computers, printer, fax access
  – Baby/kid friendly space
• Student Parents Association for Recruitment and Retention Facebook
Physical Accommodations: Disabled Students Program

• POLICY SHIFT: UC Berkeley’s DSP now grants “Temporary Mobility Disability” Status for Expectant Students!

• DSP PARTNER: Actively referring NESPs to request DSP services at FIRST confirmation of pregnancy
Mental Health Support

• Individualized Counseling
• Peer Support Groups
  – Education Course: It Takes a Village
• Counseling And Psychological Services Student Parent Center Partnership
Financial Aid Status Transitions

• FAFSA Changes
• Dependent to Independent Status
• Student Parent Grant
• Budget Appeal Addendums
• Financial Aid Officer Ally
Housing Transitions

• Exploring Suitable Housing Arrangements
  – Community
  – Supportive services
  – Student financial aid flexibility

• Applying For Family Housing

• Family Housing Program Services Referrals
  – Drop-in advising
  – Community events
  – Emergency Food Program
Academic Planning and Accommodations

• Reframing Students’ Vision of Success
  – Reduced course loads due to parenthood
  – Extended time

• Social Welfare Internships

• Letters of Support
  – Exceptional changes to transcript

• Student Parent Allies
  – College advisors
  – EOP counselors
Childcare and Social Service Support

• Food Security
  – *Bear Pantry* project
  – Community food bank referrals
  – *Calfresh* program
  – *WIC* partnerships
  – LATEST: *Spoonrockets* Donation

• Childcare Application Assistance and Eligibility Maintenance
  – Early Childhood Education Program
  – Early Head Start Program
Childcare and Social Service Support (cont.)

- Medical Insurance
  - Medi-Cal support
  - Resources through university health services

- Calworks: Welfare-to-Work
  - Application/eligibility support
  - Training verification, attendance reports sign-offs
  - Special topics course
HOW TO EXPAND NESP ADVISOR SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY
NESP Advising

• Immediately Introduce NESPs to the Student Parent Community
  – Events
  – Mentors
  – Internships

• Help NESPs Reframe Their Notion Of A “Successful Student” Along With New Responsibilities
Increase Partnerships

- Consult With Your Institution’s Disabled Students Program According To Title IX Clarification
- Contact Local Early Head Start Program To See If Childcare Priorities For Students Can Be Created
- Invite Campus Allies (Financial Aid, Psych Services, College Advisors) Into Your Office Space For Consistent Weekly Drop-in Hours For Student Parents
Creative Accommodations

- Send Advisors To Meet With Parents In Family Housing and in Other Family Friendly Spaces
- Consider Format Flexibility In Office And Program Hours
  - Telephone appointments
  - Video Chat
- Express That Affordable Childcare For Infants Is The MOST Difficult To Obtain And Share This Info In Letters Of Support With Faculty, Advisors, Etc.
Student Parent Advocacy

- Be Supportive Of Late Drops And Late Changes Of Grading Option
- Encourage And Normalize Reduced Course Loads According To Disabled Students Rights For Nesps
- Help Advocate On Behalf Of Your Student Parents
Materials to Reference

• June 2013 Title IX Clarification: Supporting the Academic Success of Pregnant and Parenting Students
• National Women’s Law Center-Pregnant and Parenting Students
• County and regional guidelines for cash aid, Head Start, and other social services for students with dependents (eg. Calworks)
Want to Discuss How to Support New and Expectant Student Parents?

Contact The Student Parent Center TODAY!

Email: Studentparents@berkeley.Edu
Phone: 510-643-5729