GENERAL SYMPOSIUM WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

2016 Student Parent Support Symposium
MAY 19 – MAY 20, 2016

Breakout Session I-A
Thursday May 19, 2016
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Money in the Bank: Creative Financial Empowerment to Assist Student-Parents With Credential Completion Student-Parents
FACILITATED BY: Mr. Matthew Strother – Gateway Community & Technical College, Ms. Andrea Miller – Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Ms. Cassandra Crum-Stratton – Big Sandy Community & Technical College

Description: This session focuses on the award-winning, grant-funded partnership between the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Service’s Ready to Work Program. The partnership offers students financial education, credit counseling, and Individual Development Accounts - matched savings accounts for higher education expenses. Overarching goals are to assist students in developing healthy financial habits, decrease educational debt, improve student ability to graduate, and decrease default rates. The presentation will outline project design, discuss successes and challenges, and provide opportunity for discussion.

Breakout Session I-B
Thursday May 19, 2016
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: The Right Tools for Adult Learners = Successful Outcomes
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Rhonda Fannin & Ms. Sue Evans

Description: Access and Success for Adults, a non-profit organization, provides technical assistance and transitional skills curriculum to service providers who assist student parents with achieving their goals; thereby ensuring a successful transition into the world of higher education and/or sustainable employment. Co-authors of “Your Place” for the Adult Learner will share ways in which to implement this easily replicable and adaptable curriculum, by targeting areas of transitional life skills, education and workplace skills. Student Parents will clutch these contextualized learning activities and develop the skills necessary for successful outcomes in all aspects of life. The mission of Access and Success for Adults is to assist disadvantaged individuals in capturing their vision of the potential that lies within and to realize they can reach their goals by overcoming obstacles, thereby starting on the road of self-sufficiency.

Breakout Session I-C
Thursday May 19, 2016
10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: New Data: Research Findings From A Study Of Nine Student Parent Programs At 4-Year Colleges And Universities
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Joan Karp & Dr. Debra Smith – Endicott College

Description: Very little research has been done on the experiences and circumstances of parenting students at 4-year colleges and universities, or on the programs that serve them. The Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG) at Endicott College is excited to present findings from their Research Study of Baccalaureate Student Parent Programs. Using extensive survey data from student parents, we will share what they told us about their lives and their experiences on campus and with programs for parenting students. We will also share what we learned about the key features of 4-year college/university programs that serve parenting students, and the major issues and challenges these programs face. We invite questions and dialogue about our findings and their implications.
**PRESENTATION TITLE:** 5 Ways Professors Can Help Single Moms Stay In School, And Then Some.....  
**FACILITATED BY:** Dr. Perry Threlfall - George Mason University

**Description:** In this interactive concurrent session, the presenter will review the ways that professors can support single mothers in the classroom, as reflected in previous research (Contextualizing The Support Systems Of Single Mothers In College: Facilitating Critical Feminist Analysis Using Mixed Methods). Participants will be invited to contribute to this list and a discussion of how to distribute these strategies will be developed. The existing list (5 Ways a Professor Can Help a Single Mom Stay in School) was well received in academic circles, and professors asked for more tips regarding what they can do. This session will provide an opportunity for more voices to contribute to the discussion. The end-goal is to produce an ongoing list of strategies that will be distributed to institutions.

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**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Promoting Policy that Meets the Need of Student Parents  
**FACILITATED BY:** Dr. Barbara Gault & Ms. Lindsey Reichlin – Institute for Women’s Policy Research, Ms. Susan Warfield – University of Minnesota & Ms. Joan Demeules – St. Catherine University

**Description:** Representatives from the Student Parent Policy Working Group, a group of researchers, advocates, and program leaders working to promote policy that better meets the needs of student parents, will share policy efforts related to student parents and shifts in legislation that may affect their success. The session includes time for participant questions and discussion. Researchers from the Institute for Women’s Policy Research will discuss data trends among student parents, policy recommendations, and legislation, including recent work on Child Care Access Means Parents in School, the Higher Education Act, and the Perkins Act. Representatives from the Student Parent HELP Center at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Access and Success for Katies with Kids, at St. Catherine University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, will share how these policy recommendations and data trends affect their student parent programs.

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**PRESENTATION TITLE:** If You Build It, They Will Come: Campus-Wide Programming for Students with Children  
**FACILITATED BY:** Ms. Kerry Hodak, Mr. Quanta` Taylor & Mr. Robert Stebens – The Ohio State University

**Description:** For students who have children, opportunities to engage in activities outside of the classroom may be limited if children are not able to participate. A key component of the Ohio Union Activities Board Grad/Prof Programming Committee is family programming open to all students—undergraduate, graduate, and professional—and their family members. This session explains development of campus-wide family programming with a focus on specific program types. To enhance applicability of the programs across institutions, the session will explain how to take specific programs and facilitate them using a low cost/no cost model. The session will explain the development of partnerships that enhance programmatic reach and quality. The session will conclude with a question and answer session and opportunity for attendees to share best practices from their institutions.
Breakout Session II-C
Thursday May 19, 2016
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Connect Two! Connecting Volunteers & Children’s Programming in a Two Generational Model
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Kristie Adams & Ms. Kate Brackett - Family Scholar House

Description: This presentation will explore both education and working with two generations on a college campus with a focus on young children’s programs and pairing programming with two generational community volunteer opportunities. It will discuss meeting both participants and volunteers where they are and how to work within program guidelines. The presentation will delve into how to work with participants and volunteers of all ages for the success of the program. A discussion of how to pair creative ideas with evidence based practices will occur.

Breakout Session II-D
Thursday May 19, 2016
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Find Me a School with a Home for my Child: A public sociological approach to supporting student parents in the Mid-Atlantic region
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Sahar Haghighat - George Mason University

Description: Based on research conducted as part of the Find Your Way guidebook published by the Center for Residential Student Parent Programs at Endicott College this presentation provides a comprehensive analysis of support services offered to student parents in the middle states association of schools and colleges. Research produced a database of institutions of higher education offering any one of five services (housing, childcare, scholarships, women’s center, and work/life center) to student parents highlighting some unique qualities for each institution. By incorporating practices of public sociology, this research aims to engage the public as active participants in the production of knowledge in the field they populate. Audience participants will be asked to contribute to the development of recommendations for best practices for the dissemination and use of this database. This will include a collective inquiry into the possible complications in producing research in order to directly support an advocacy network.

Breakout Session III-A
Thursday May 19, 2016
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Moving Beyond Triage to Support Teen Parents in College: A model for mentoring and crisis management
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Caroline Griswold Short & Ms. Silvana Rueda - Generation Hope

Description: Program staff from Generation Hope, an innovative nonprofit that helps DC-area teen parents become college graduates by providing them with one-on-one mentoring, tuition assistance, and case management, will provide an interactive workshop and discussion on Generation Hope’s program, focusing on its model for crisis management. Over its five years of programming, Generation Hope, the only organization in the DC area that focuses solely on college completion for teen parents, has supported over eighty teen parents in college, celebrated six graduates, and boasted an 80% retention rate from year to year. This workshop will provide attendees with practical tools to manage common crises faced by teen parents in college, and attendees will participate in interactive activities designed to help you evaluate current procedures, brainstorm new tools, and apply information learned in the session.
Breakout Session III-B
Thursday May 19, 2016
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Building Together: Shaping Programs for Student Parents from the Ground Up
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Stephanie Charles & Mr. Tyler Chestnut - University of Alabama

Description: The University of Alabama’s Student Parent Program Coordinators present a three-part multimedia exploration of how to grow and sustain your own successful student parent programs. We have grown an inventive and ever-changing program into one that serves over 1,200 students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Our first section will cover creating successful, cost-effective programs through innovation and collaboration, followed by a break-out activity inspired by program development theory, where you will work in groups to build a creative program for student parents. Finally, in the last section, we will create a list of best practices and discuss how to ensure that new programs will continue even as their coordinators, directors, and sources of funding change. The programs presented will be backed with pertinent research, our own student surveys, data analysis, and budget requirements.

Breakout Session III-C
Thursday May 19, 2016
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

Presentation Title: Best Practices for Student Parent Programs: Incorporating Evidence Based Practices and Evaluation of Outcomes
Facilitated by: Dr. Sheila Katz – University of Houston & Dr. Autumn Green -Endicott College

Description: This session will be a co-facilitated research presentation and a discussion of evidence based practices in student parent programs--what they are, why evidence based practices are important, what are the best practices from evidence based programs, and what are the barriers or limitations to implementing EBPs? This session will include significant audience participation and discussion about what is working in your programs, what research programs are currently collecting about the programs and practices, how to better incorporate EBPs into student parent programs, and how to collect the data that you need to prove that your practices are working.

Breakout Session III-D
Thursday May 19, 2016
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM

PRESENTATION TITLE: Dual Generation Learning Through Family Literacy
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Jade Watters – Ms. Joanne Levenson & Ms. Adina Giannelli – University of Massachusetts Amherst

Description: The program will be organized in 4 components:
1) Interactive discussion of the value of language and dual languages,
2) Participants will be paired with others to share ideas about stories and to formulate what 'makes' a book,
3) Demonstration of bookmaking that can be produced at home with minimal materials and artistic background, and
4) Coaching in dialogic reading techniques concluding with a discussion of learning 'take-aways'.

Additionally, the program will provide the context to support parents so that they can create a home environment where their children’s literacy will flourish in one or two languages. The program consciously incorporates a strength based approached to dual generation literacy as it aids families in valuing family literacy as a source of strength. This workshop will be divided into two sections, the first being a general overview and more formal presentation and the second section being more interactive and discussion-based.
PRESENTATION TITLE: Is Your Campus Family Friendly?: A Conversation About The Process Of Self-Assessing Campus Services For Student Parents  
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Joan Karp & Dr. Debra Smith - Endicott College

Description: Eight schools across the country have been piloting a Family Friendly Campus Toolkit this past year. Developed by the Program Evaluation and Research Group (PERG), at Endicott College it is a self-assessment process and collection of tools meant to help strengthen services for student parents and their families. Come join many of the piloters as they take part in a conversation about their experiences, including: Shared issues with collecting data about and from parenting students; the benefits of convening a task force devoted to student parent issues; and how they used the Toolkit rubric to help with the self-assessment process. Piloters will also share preliminary outcomes of the process, and will answer questions. Draft versions of some toolkit documents will be available.

PRESENTATION TITLE: Stories Matter: Sharing Your Program 
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Adina Giannelli & Ms. Joanne Levenson - University of Massachusetts Amherst

Description: Storytelling has become the new buzzword for nonprofits to advertise their narrative to funders and stakeholders. And, not surprisingly, storytelling can also be of great use to programs that support student parents since building support (both financial and administrative) is for most of us an on-going imperative at our campuses. In fact, there is now a growing body of documented research (most recently conducted by the Harvard Business School) that demonstrates that using stories in presentations can change attitudes, beliefs and behaviors of listeners. The use of storytelling among student parents engenders the development of voice, vision, and agency, providing a platform for self-expression while allowing the narrator to develop self-efficacy, communication skills, and empowerment.

PRESENTATION TITLE: How to Build a Support System for a Successful Educational Experience 
FACILITATED BY: Ms. Tannika Price - The Ohio State University

Description: It is easy to build a support system when you have connections and healthy family relationships. But what about those students who do not have healthy connections? How can they build a strong support system that will allow them to grow as young adults while raising their children and succeeding in school? Well the support system can be built, but first there are many issues that need to be dealt with, especially with parents who come from poverty or a past filled with abuse and/or neglect. Using a trauma-informed care model developed at the Moms2B program, Tannika Price will give steps that can be taken at any time to ensure a student’s success. This information will benefit both the students as well as academic professionals.
Breakout Session V-A
Friday May 20, 2016
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Affinity, Engagement, and Relationship Building: Money Alone Cannot Buy Student Parent Success  
**FACILITATED BY:** Ms. Susan Warfield & Ms. Melanie Soland - University of Minnesota

**Description:** This presentation focuses on a key aspect of student parent service delivery and its impact on retention and graduation. Beyond specific economic assistance and child care resources, there are key needs student parents bring with them to campus and which can dramatically impact their academic success. The Student Parent HELP Center at the University of Minnesota has been providing a broad range of student parent support and assistance programming to student parents and other at risk non-traditional student populations for over five decades. Their years of experience, student testimonials and evaluation data have emphasized the key role that student and staff interaction have on student outcomes. This will be a high interest presentation for researchers and program staff alike and will include use of digital storytelling and review of recent data draws.

Breakout Session V-B
Friday May 20, 2016
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**PRESENTATION TITLE:** Collecting The World’s Most Difficult Data to Find: Qualitative Interviews with Single Mother Students  
**FACILITATED BY:** Dr. Perry Threlfall - George Mason University

**Description:** In this session, we will review the lessons learned through the experience collecting in-depth interviews with single mother students over a 5 year period. As time progressed, the researcher learned how to apply the tenets of traditional qualitative research methods with caveats unique to this particular population. Drawing on feminist standpoint theory, we will discuss some of the pitfalls and strategies of conducting ethnomethodological interviews with women in marginalized, stressful, life circumstances.

Breakout Session V-C
Friday May 20, 2016
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

**Presentation Title:** Beyond the Classroom: Education, Empowering And Elevating Student Parent Families to Achieve New Levels of Financial Stability  
**Facilitated by:** Ms. Amanda Fox & Ms. Michelle Cobbs – New Directions Career Center

**Description:** The E3 Educate, Empower, Elevate program prepares women to successfully obtain post-secondary education. This program incorporates a two-generation approach as prescribed by the Aspen Institute for moving parents and children together beyond poverty. E3 goes above and beyond traditional college readiness programs by incorporating comprehensive services and assistance founded on evidence based strategies. It is described as a “hand-up” not a “hand-out” by participants. Amanda Fox, LPC, CPRW, New Directions Career Center’s Program Director and Michelle Cobbs, MSW, LISW –S, E3 Coordinator will present a PowerPoint containing, relevant research, a description of the E3 Program Model, staff approaches and initial survey results/outcomes from its first five years of programming. Presenters will discuss impressions and program improvements, including those implemented from Participatory action research (PAR). This dynamic presentation will involve audience participation and answer their questions.