

Multiple Responsibilities, Single Mission

Understanding the Experiences of
Community College Parenting Students



Questions for Consideration

College leaders interested in learning more about their parenting students can facilitate campus conversations to shed light on needs, expand understanding, and inspire people to act and undertake the important work of helping these students succeed. The following questions can be used to spur such conversations.

- » How does our college currently identify and track parenting students? What data do we collect about their enrollment patterns, course completion, and degree attainment?
- » What barriers exist on our campus that prevent parenting students from accessing critical support services like financial aid advising, career counseling, and child care?
- » What child-care options currently exist on our campus? What community partnerships do we have with child-care services? Are they affordable, accessible, and aligned with students' class schedules?
- » How can we redesign our support services to better accommodate the scheduling constraints of parenting students who are more likely to take evening/weekend classes and work 30+ hours weekly?
- » How are we addressing food and housing insecurity among parenting students? What partnerships exist with community organizations to help families meet these basic needs?
- » How can we leverage technology to make services and resources more accessible to parenting students, particularly those who are taking online courses?
- » What academic policies might unintentionally create barriers for parenting students (e.g., attendance policies, late assignment policies, etc.)?
- » What professional development opportunities are available to and/or required of faculty and staff regarding supporting parenting students effectively?

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