

Supporting Student Parent Success

Student Success Summit
March 21, 2023



Agenda

Overview of *College Success for Single Mother* Project

National data

What we discovered

Supporting single mothers at KCC

College Success for Single Mothers

- Three-year project (2020- 2022) of the National College Transition Network (NCTN) at World Education, funded by ECMC Foundation.
- Builds on recommendations from NCTN's 2019 report, *No Matter What Obstacle is Thrown My Way*
 - Collect data to identify single mothers on campus
 - Provide professional development to faculty and staff on the needs of single mothers
 - Develop diverse and flexible funding sources
 - Advocate for policies within and outside of the institutions that support single mothers

COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS



- Broward College, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Columbus State Community College, Columbus, OH
- Delaware County Community College, Media, PA
- Frederick Community College, Frederick, MD
- Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, NY
- Lee College, Baytown, TX
- Western Technical College, La Crosse, WI
- University of Hawai'i, Windward Community College, Honolulu, HI

KCC College Success for Single Mothers Team

Helen-Margaret Nasser, Director of Student Union and Intercultural Center

Herschella Steele, Director of KCC Flex

Hattie Elmore, Director of the Access Resource Center

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Mabel Chee, Director of Grants

National Data on Student Parents

- Student parents make up almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of all college students in the U.S.
- They are more likely than non-parenting students to have lower incomes, to be the first in their family to attend college, to be people of color, to be women, and to incur more debt paying for college
- They have 50% less time to focus on school than their non-parenting peers
- They tend to earn higher grades on average but are 10 times less likely to graduate than their non-parenting peers
- They face many of the same challenges that non-parenting students face in college – mental health challenges, learning disabilities, etc. – but have fewer resources (time, money, access) to get the support they need

Most Student Parents Are Mothers and More Than 40% Student Mothers Are Single

Number of Student Parents by Gender and Marital Status, 2015-16

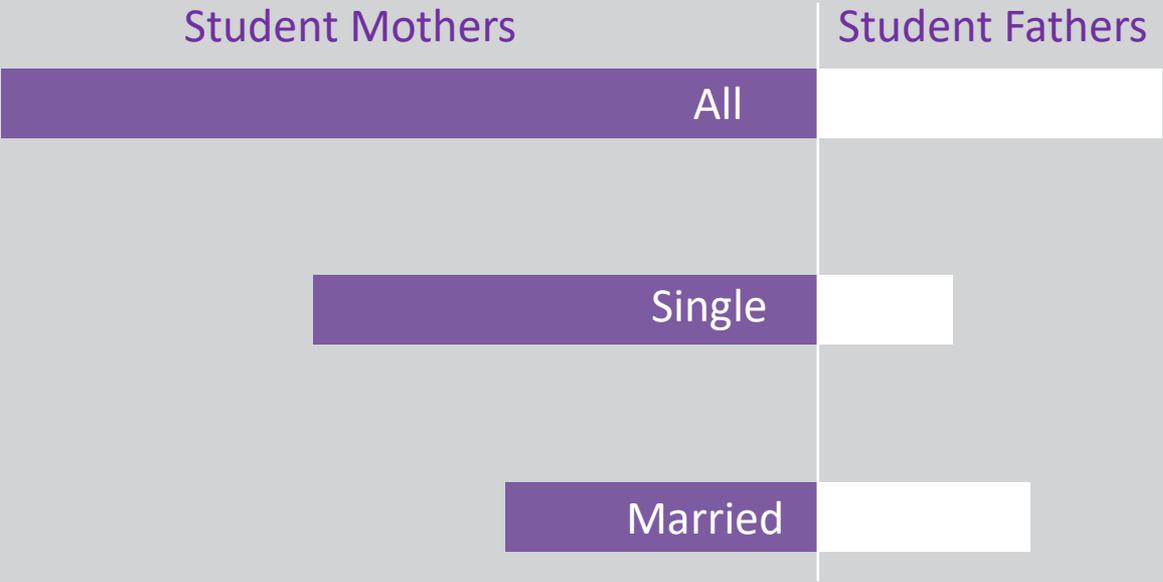
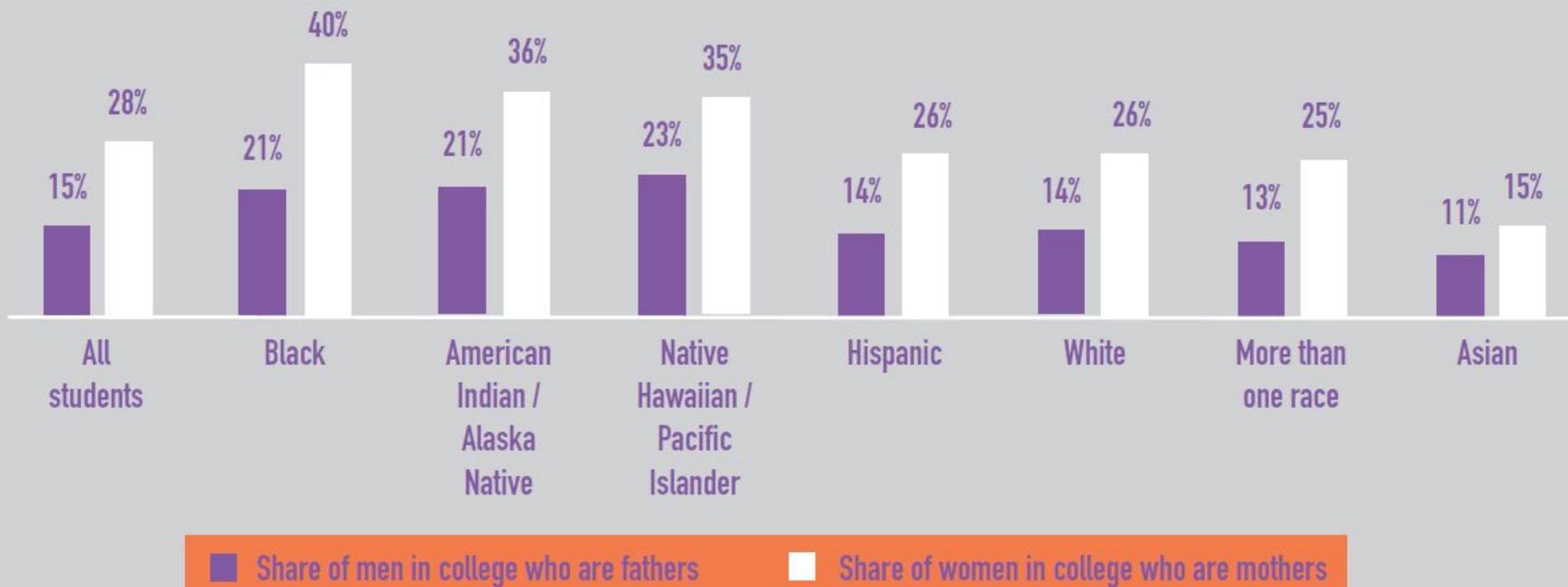
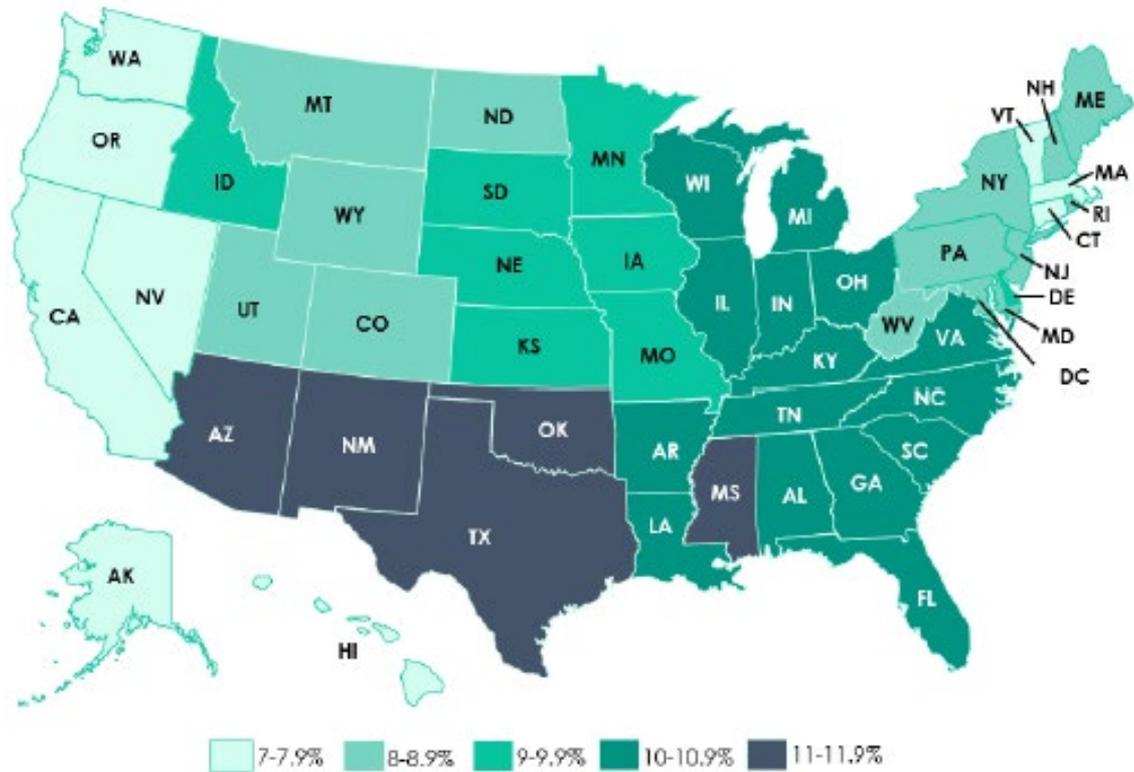


Figure 4. Over a Quarter of All Women and Two in Five Black Women in College Are Mothers

Share of Students Who Are Parents by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 2015-16

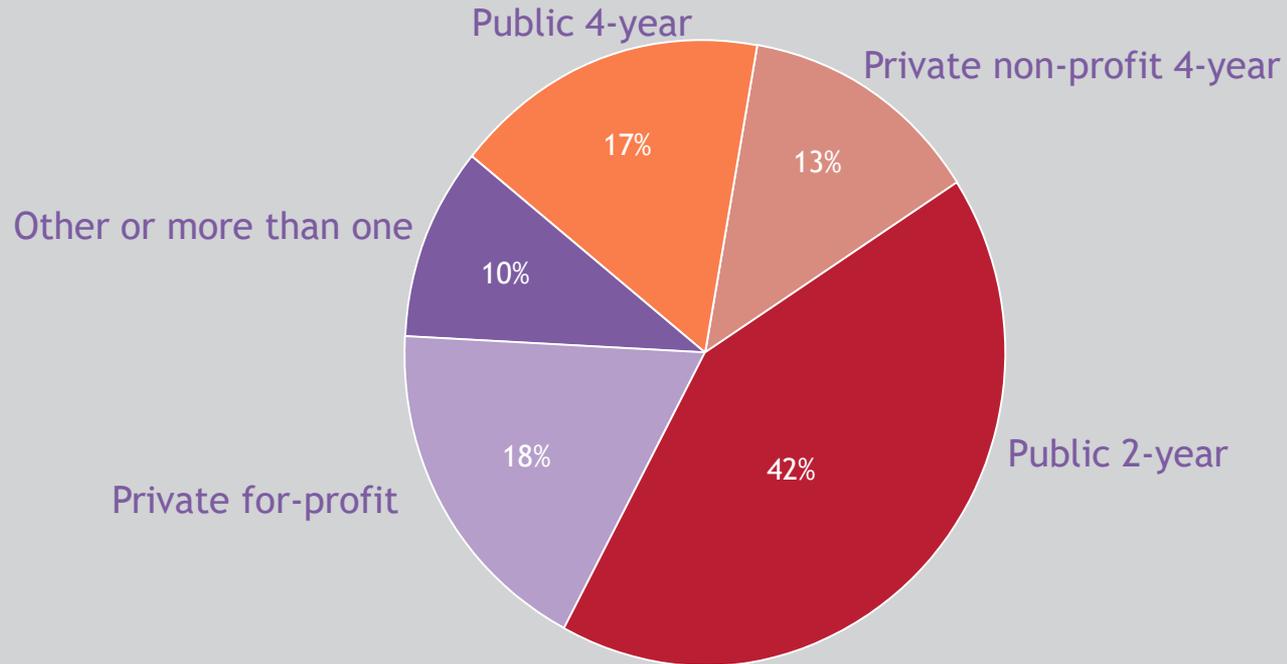


Share of Undergraduate Students Who are Single Mothers by State

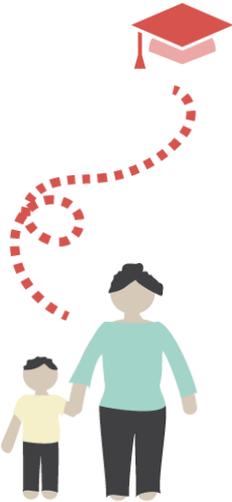


The Largest Share of Student Parents Attends Community Colleges

Distribution of All Student Parents by Institution Type, 2015-16



What obstacles do single mothers face when seeking a degree?



89%

are low income

43%

work more than 30 hours a week

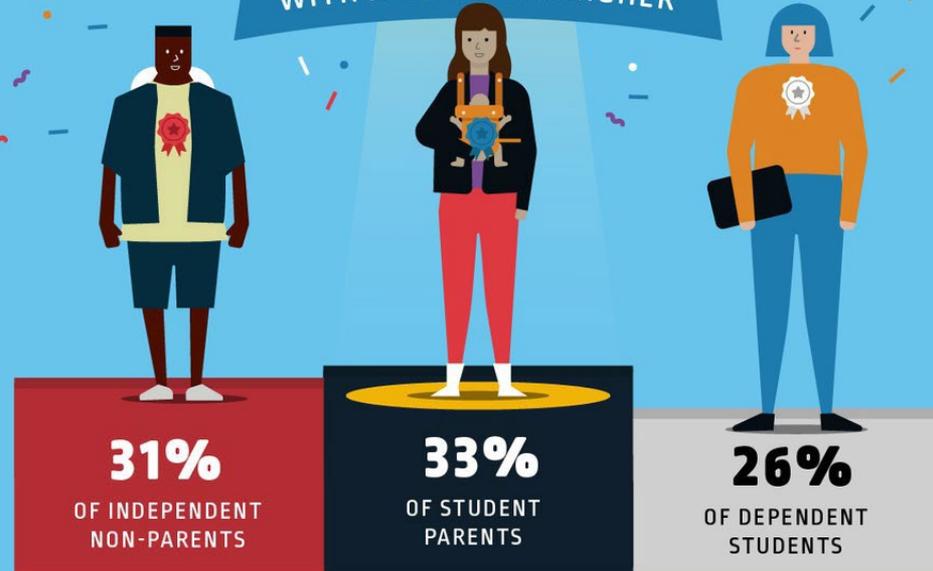
40%

are likely or very likely to drop out

ECMC
Foundation

STUDENT PARENTS GET GREAT GRADES

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WITH A 3.5 GPA OR HIGHER



33% OF STUDENT PARENTS HAVE GPA OR 3.5 OR HIGHER, COMPARED WITH 31% OF INDEPENDENT NONPARENTS AND 26% OF DEPENDENT STUDENTS.

Kingsborough's Study on Parenting Students Timeline and Goals



KCC Data Collection



Demographic data, gleaned from financial aid applications

Qualitative data – survey experiences and challenges of parenting students at KCC

- Self-identified Demographics
- Experiences on Campus
- Support Services at School
- General Conditions of Student Parent Lives
- Follow up Information

College Success for Single Mothers

KCC Data Fall 2019 and Fall 2020

About 6% of the degree student population identified as single parents

Large majority 84% (Fall 2019)/71% (Fall 2020) identified as single mothers

When compared to other Female students, single mothers were much more likely to be:

- Black - 55% vs. 35% in Fall 2019; 46% vs. 37% in Fall 2020
- Older: About 73% of single mothers were 25 or older compared to only 35% of the female population who were not single mothers.
- Have similar GPA distributions, with less than 15% of both populations receiving lower than a 2.00 GPA, and over 50% receiving over a 3.00 GPA.

Intersectional Identities

Similarities with KCC FLEX Student Demographics

- KCC FLEX population has almost twice as many adult students (defined as 25 yrs. and older) in comparison to the KCC population overall: 66% in comparison to 33% (Fall 2020)
- KCC FLEX population is more likely to be:
 - Black (46% compared to 37%)
 - Female (71% compared to 57%).
- KCC FLEX student retention is significantly higher than the KCC student population overall. The one-year retention rate for the Fall 2020 KCC FLEX cohort was 78.2%, compared to 68.4% of the KCC population overall.

Survey Results

- **Financial Aid/Resources:** In addition to financial support, applicants also mentioned the Access Resource Center and its offerings
- **Flexibility:** Flexibility can mean having options for how to take classes (e.g., online or in person, evenings and weekends, etc.) but it can also mean having professors who are willing to provide flexibility in terms of attending class or turning in assignments
- **Support:** (*Logistical, Counseling/Psychological, Advising, Personal Relationships and Connection*) Many applicants mentioned that the one-on-one support they received during their time at KCC has made a huge impact on their experience and played a large role in their ability to continue their education.
- As one applicant mentioned, it is simply encouraging to see that “there are people out there who believe in us, support us, and cheer me on.”

Survey Results (cont'd)

- **Childcare:** Though childcare is not needed by all, some applicants mentioned needing to have a place to bring their children when they are unable to secure childcare but need to attend class.
- **Communication of Resources and Opportunities:** One clear finding from the applications is that there are pockets of students who are not aware of the resources and services available to them.
- **Other:**
 - Tutoring support, particularly in writing and math
 - Help securing jobs after graduation
 - Opportunities for flexible work-study positions
 - Being mindful of the scheduling of assignments and exams in classes
 - Ensuring that bathrooms have changing tables

Based on the data, we set the following goals:

- Inventory existing resources at KCC and complete a single mother resource guide that can be shared in multiple ways and posted on the website
- Research and identify an intake form and process that will allow single mothers to self-identify during the admissions/registration process
- Identify and provide opportunities for single mothers to make connections with each other
- Explore the location of a child-friendly space and identify the staffing and policies that would be required to support the use of such a space.
- Develop and offer workshops and presentations for faculty and staff to support their work with single mothers and understanding of their needs
- Further develop our relationship with external partners
 - Jeremiah Program (“JP”)
 - J.P. Morgan Chase

J.P.Morgan

- KCC received \$300,000 from JP Morgan Chase to support single mothers
- Grant goals:
 - Provide access to emergency funding that does not require extensive documentation.
 - Identify student mothers in intentional and consistent ways by developing an intake process to better identify the single mother population.
 - Hire a part-time “navigator” to assist in building systems and processes and to connect students with existing services
 - Offer opportunities for single mothers to connect with each other for support and community building.

Jeremiah Program

- **National network that** *“supports 100% women, 100% single moms experiencing poverty, and 100% parents in pursuit of a college degree with 80% of those parents identifying as Black, Latinx and Indigenous. Higher education is not the solution for inequity in our country, but it remains the greatest lever of economic mobility.”*
- Launched in the Brownsville neighborhood in Brooklyn in 2017
- Coordinates existing community resources for families through partnerships, while also offering JP’s program components for both moms and their children.
- Offered programming at KCC last year
 - *Resources for Single Moms*
 - *Financial Literacy*
 - *Jeremiah Program Orientation*



Existing KCC Resources for Women

- Women's Center
- Access Resource Center
- CUNY Edge
- KCC FLEX
- Child Development Center
- Dress for Success



childdevelopmentcenter
at kingsborough community college



Outcomes

Intake process and use of Starfish

Self-identification vs. data interpretation

- Traditionally this population is identified based on reporting on FAFSA
- KCC chose to include self-identification of SPS and first-generation status as part of the 1st advisement appointment selection process
 - Advisors also gather this information for continuing students and share for tracking
- Added a self-identification form on the KCC Single Parent Student Webpage

SPS are coded in CUNYFirst to allow focused communication and connection

- This coding is brought into Starfish to help advisors identify SPS in their caseload for more personalized and holistic support
- SPS Navigator connects with SPS students registered for the semester to help build a network and share support opportunities and resources



Resource and
Help for Single
Parents



Child Care Access

Financial Aid

Scholarships for Single
Parents

Special Programs

Single Parent Students

Being a college student is challenging under any circumstances, but juggling school and the responsibility of caring for a child can require an especially great effort. Kingsborough Community College is aware of these challenges, and offers numerous resources designed to support single parents while they are pursuing their academic degrees! We are here to help!

Use the links on the left side of this page to learn about on-campus resources that can also connect you to our community partners:

- Make connections
- Utilize campus and off-campus resources
- Learn about financial support opportunities

<https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/SingleParentStudents/index.html>

Outcomes

Navigator and Programming

- Navigator-Model of service delivery based upon strengths-based case management
- Strategy-Reduce barriers to success and to minimize fragmentation in service delivery/outreach
- Goal-Develop a comprehensive system of partnerships, supports and resources for student parents
- Daycare is essential for some student parents. Without a safe and affordable option, college would not be possible.
- CCAMPIS Grant-Only federal grant program dedicated to covering costs for parents who qualify for PELL grants
- Services-wrap around supports, academic referrals, linkages to community partners, formalized structure for gaps in serve, progress, activities, and all contacts

Examples of Programming

The following programs were offered last year specifically for single mothers, although all are welcome:

March 14: ***You Belong Here*** session for Single Parents sponsored by the Student Union and Intercultural Center

May 5: ***Mother's Day Celebration/ Open House*** hosted by the Women's Center

September 19-21 and March 20-23: ***Dress for Success Professional Clothing Boutique***, free workplace clothing sponsored by Career Services and the SU&IC

October 18: ***Healthy Relationship Workshop*** sponsored by the Women's Center

November 8: ***Adult Learning 101: Parent-Student Survival Guide***, hosted by KCC FLEX

Panelists Frances Robinson, Director of The Women Center; Hattie Elmore, Director of Access Resource Center; Akeea Young, KCC FLEX Alum and John Jay College Student; Lourdes-Gina Louis, KCC FLEX Student

Outcomes

Emergency Support

Single Mothers Referred To ARC:

- Each student is required to complete the intake form.
- Students are then informed of other benefits they may be eligible for
- Students received the emergency grant of \$500 and any other resources they may be entitled due based on their intake.
- Students are encouraged to contact us if additional services are needed throughout their academic careers.
- Services most request – housing, childcare, and SNAP benefits.

Outcomes

Child Friendly Space and Childcare Center

- Critical component of programming to ensure access for all students
- Exploring all options
 - CUNY operates 17 childcare centers
 - CUNY policy that speaks to children on campus
 - KCC policy that speaks to children on campus
- Licensure coverage
 - 3 months-12 years old (Infant/toddler, 3K and 4K)
 - Hours of operation – 7:30am-6:30pm
- Multi-generational approaches
 - Family inclusive events and activities
 - Programming (parenting classes, stress management, child development, financial literacy, etc.)

Supporting Student Parents

- Reflects our institutional commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion
- It has an outsized impact: student parent success = multi- generational success!
- The strategies, policies, and practices we adopt to support student parents contribute to a more supportive campus for all students
 - Referrals
 - Flexibility
 - Inclusion / Visibility
 - Understanding

Questions for Discussion

- Where do you see gaps in programming or services for single parent students (SPS)?
- What types of challenges have you noted from students in your classes/programs that either identify themselves as SPS, or you have been able to surmise are the primary person responsible for a child/children?
- What flexibility have you offered/could offer to better support this population?
 - How much flexibility is appropriate? How much support is excessive?
- Would you like to know which students in your classes/programs/caseloads are SPS?
- Other questions?