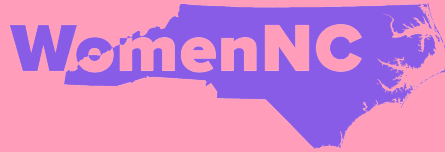


SUPPORTING SINGLE MOTHER STUDENTS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

IN NORTH CAROLINA'S RESEARCH TRIANGLE

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WomenNC



BACKGROUND

Nearly **10%** of all U.S. undergraduate students **are single mothers.**

28% of single mothers have **some college education, but no degree**



Only **33%** of postsecondary students who have children are expected to graduate with a degree **within six years**

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



Getting a college degree leads to...

- Immediate improvements to quality of life
- Legacy of success for children
- Benefits for national/state economies

"PREDICTORS OF SUCCESS AMONG SINGLE-PARENT STUDENTS ARE NOT INVARIANT PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT LIE OUTSIDE OF THE INFLUENCE OF INTERVENTION.. RATHER, THEY APPEAR TO BE BEHAVIORS WELL WITHIN THE SCOPE OF INFLUENCE OF PROGRAMS THAT CAN BE CREATED BY INSTITUTIONS, NON-PROFITS, SCHOLARSHIP FUNDERS, AND OTHERS."

-CARPENTER ET AL., 2018, P. 128

METHODOLOGY

The recommendations made in this presentation are the product of a literature review conducted of both peer-reviewed and gray literature published between 1993 and 2022.

- **Aims:** to identify both
 - barriers that single mother students are facing
 - proposed solutions combatting those barriers.
- **Databases used:** Google Scholar, Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), and the Duke University Libraries research database.
- **Primary search terms employed:** “single mothers community colleges,” “single mother students,” and “student parents community college.”

BARRIERS TO SINGLE MOTHERS' COLLEGE SUCCESS



Financial
constraints



Time
constraints

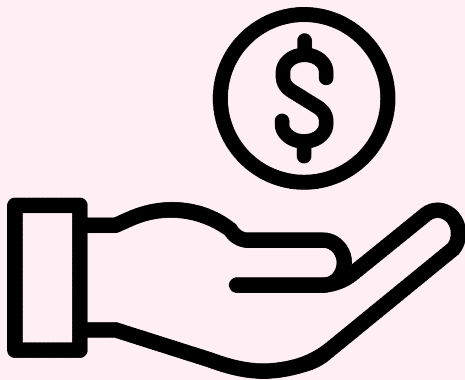


Lacking
childcare

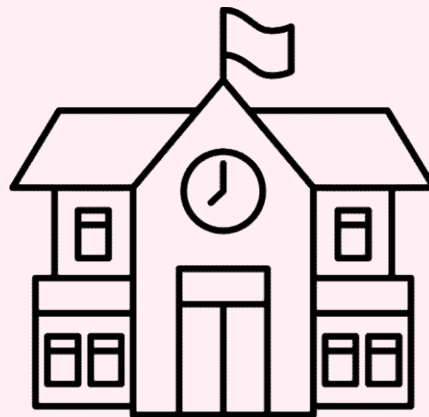


Lacking a sense of
community + belonging

SUPPORTING SINGLE MOTHERS' COLLEGE SUCCESS



Financial
support



Campus childcare +
subsidies



Community supports
+ data tracking

"THE ASSUMPTION THAT A SINGLE UNIT TARGETED AT STUDENT-PARENTS (E.G., A CHILDCARE CENTER) CAN ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF STUDENT-PARENTS DISCOUNTS THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING HOLISTICALLY TO STUDENTS' MULTIPLE ROLES AND IDENTITIES."
-SALLEE & COX (2019), P. 642

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRIANGLE AREA

Pilot a
data
collection
program

Establish a
guaranteed
income
pilot

Improvements
to
on-campus
childcare

Hire
single
mother
navigators



Thank you!



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