Success, Equity, and You; Making Connections through Financial Aid
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CASFAA Conference
November 2019
Karen Hunter
Our Students

• 45% of college students say they have experienced food insecurity in the last month (June 2019)
• 60% of community college students and 48% of university students experience both food insecurity and difficulty paying rent
• It is not always the lack of people that makes a student feel lonely, the lack of quality interactions.
• 45% of college students say they experience “more than average stress”
• 87% of college students reported feeling overwhelmed by all they had to do at least once in the previous year

(Gordon, Lumina Foundation, Moon)
• 40% of students fail to seek help
• 50% have struggled greatly from anxiety and as a result have struggled in school
• 30% of students reported that they had problems with school work due to a mental health issue
• 50% of students rated their mental health below average or poor
• About 7% of parents reported that their students suffer from mental health issues in college

(Mental Health Guide, The American Institute of Stress)
HALT

- H – Hunger
- A – Anger/Anxiety
- L – Loneliness
- T – Tired

- A tool used in self-care and self-awareness
- When these basic needs are not met, we are susceptible to self-destructive behaviors

(Bauman)
Equality/Equity
Equality
Equity
“Equity is more than being diverse, it is a society that is fair and just, where all can participate and reach their full potential; where we treat others with dignity, fairness, and compassion.”

PolicyLink and Monica Sharma

“Equity means recognizing the historical and systemic disparities in opportunities and outcomes and providing the resources necessary to address those disparities.”

Ryan J. Smith
Emotional Intelligence

- Empathy and Compassion
- Self-Assessment
- Self-Regulation
- Relationship Management
- Effective Communication

(Gleeson)
Empathy and Compassion

• Empathy is the ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and understand how they feel or react to a situation. When using empathy, the capacity to feel compassion is open. The emotional response to suffering that motivates a desire to help.

(Gleeson)
Using Equity to Make Connections
Regulations

- Verification Guide (approximately 1400 pages)
- SAR C Codes
- Verification Documents
What would you do without Regulations?

• If you did not have these rules, how would you serve your students?

• Activity – As a group come up with one REAL thing that your group would do to help our students and make connections if we had no rules.
• Are some of our rules self-imposed?
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

What is Federal Student Aid?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government—specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for education expenses at a college, career school, or graduate school.

Federal student aid covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid also can help pay for a computer and for dependent care.

There are three main categories of federal student aid:
- **Grant**—Grant money usually doesn't have to be repaid. Most U.S. Department of Education grants are based on a student’s financial need.
- **Work-Study**—Work-study money is earned by a student through a job on or near campus while attending school and does not have to be repaid.
- **Loan**—Loan money must be repaid with interest.

For details about the federal student aid programs, including maximum annual amounts and loan interest rates, visit StudentAid.gov/types.

WHY GET A FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN?

Federal student loans offer low fixed interest rates, income-based repayment plans, loan forgiveness, and deferment (postponement of repayment) options, including deferment of loan payments when a student returns to school. Generally, repayment of a federal loan does not begin until after the student leaves school. And did you know that a student receiving a federal loan does not need a credit history or a cosigner? Private loans from banks often do not offer such benefits. So, if you need to borrow money to pay for college or career school, start with federal student loans. More information is available at StudentAid.gov/federal-vs-private.
Group Activity

• Press your buzzer if someone in your group does the following already in their daily work:
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  • Easy to follow instructions for the Selective Service requirements for students that arrived in the U.S. after the age of 26.
  • Clear help for those that have an incomplete FAFSA or Unofficial EFC.
Group Activity

• Press your buzzer if someone in your group does the following already in their daily work:
  • Easy to follow instructions for the Selective Service requirements for students that arrived in the U.S. after the age of 26.
  • Clear help for those that have an incomplete FAFSA or Unofficial EFC.
  • Clear help for a student with an ATB flag.
Group Discussion

• What can we do to within our regulations to provide more equitable service?
  – FAFSA
  – Verification
  – SAR C-Codes
  – Other Ideas
What will we do better to make connections with our students?

- FAFSA
- Verification
- SAR C-Codes
- Other Ideas
Connections Made

• More students will apply for financial aid
• Students feel like they are part of the college community
• Students persist longer in their educational goals and graduate at a higher rate (Success!)
• Students will learn about additional resources available on campus

(Lumina Foundation)
Financial Aid Leaders

“Power isn’t control at all — power is strength, and giving that strength to others. A leader isn’t someone who forces others to make him stronger; a leader is someone willing to give his strength to others that they may have the strength to stand on their own.” — Beth Revis, author of the Across the Universe trilogy.
Works Cited


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How Did We Do?

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