

Basic Needs Dimension

Student Engagement and Well-Being Workgroup

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Issue

The ever-changing US population and higher education student demographics with lower SES, underprepared and minority students attending our institutions are impacting how we best facilitate student success. More support is needed to address students' basic needs, crucial to student success. Growing literature is addressing how without student basic needs being met, students struggle to stay in college, many stop/drop out, work an excessive number of hours in jobs and take longer to reach their academic goals. For decades higher education has encouraged high impact academic support programs/services to facilitate student success. The time is now to integrate basic needs as part of our support for students. A growing number of students are experiencing food insecurity, homelessness, and difficulties meeting financial needs, challenging hurdles to their graduation.

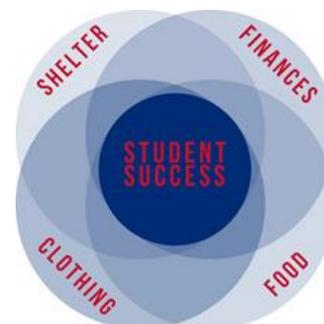
Although more recent movement of a few states to provide financial support for college tuition is a step in the right direction, the need to holistically address and support students with meeting their basic needs is becoming the gold standard. Typically, at state universities, tuition is but one third of college costs. We must judge ourselves in providing full access, opportunity and success for our changing college population. This is not only the right thing to do, but a social justice national imperative. With the opportunity for a college degree, these students will fuel our economy with skilled workers and leaders needed. The future of our state/country is uniquely tied to the success of our students, present and future. We must meet today's students where they are as their needs are ever changing. What we considered even a decade ago to be cutting edge support systems must be reexamined as we move forward as higher education leaders and policy makers. This is not to say that other high impact practices addressing academic support services/preparation, wellness and traditional involvement/engagement opportunities are not also important to facilitating success. However, new emerging basic needs literature shows an increase in low SES and minority students coming to college will demand our attention as their numbers grow and represent an increasing number of our college going population.

The CSU has conducted its own system-wide studies of Basic Needs in 2016. In the 2016 study, 21% of CSU students reported food insecurity. Almost 11% of CSU students reported homelessness one of more times in the last 12 months. Nationally, Temple University and the Wisconsin HOPE Lab study (2017) indicated 36% of student are food insecure, 36% housing insecure while 9% report being homeless. Particularly, CSU first generation, Latino/a, and African American students are at greater risk experiencing difficulties addressing food insecurity and homelessness.

A number of colleges across the country have in recent years addressed basic needs of students in a variety of areas. They have concentrated on many of the following:

- Financial
- Food Insecurity
- Homelessness
- Clothing
- Campus Jobs

Some of these programs have been financed through private donations while others have been started through use of college funding as a better



Article can also be found online at: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/division/frankscorner.html> understanding that students' basic needs are seen as equally important to other student support programs/services provided to facilitate student success on college campuses.

Best Practices

Below, some high impact basic needs practices within and outside the CSU are discussed in the hope that we all may draw from these successful high impact basic needs practices to address at each of our university communities and across the country.

Financial

- Micro grants
 - Georgia State: <https://success.gsu.edu/initiatives/panther-retention-grants/>
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/financialaid/grants/bulldogretentiongrant.html>
- Good Samaritan Programs
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/projecthope/gsf.html>
 - East Bay: <http://www.csueastbay.edu/hope/>
 - Sam Houston State: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/student-health-center/health-promotions/adai/programs/goodsam.html>
- Money Management Centers
 - Stanislaus: <https://www.csustan.edu/financial-aid-scholarship/financial-literacy>
 - Georgia State: <https://sfs.gsu.edu/the-financial-aid-process/financial-resources/financial-literacy/personal-finance-and-debt-management/>
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/moneycenter/>
 - University of North Texas: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-money-management-center>
 - Sam Houston State: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/smmc/>
- Emergency Loans
 - Georgia State: [http://phy-astr.gsu.edu/files/2015/03/Emergency Loan Process and Workflow FINAL GSU University D epartments.pdf](http://phy-astr.gsu.edu/files/2015/03/Emergency%20Loan%20Process%20and%20Workflow%20FINAL%20GSU%20University%20Departments.pdf)
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/financialaid/loans/emergency.html>
 - East Bay: <http://www.csueastbay.edu/financialaid/types-of-aid/loans/emergency-loans.html>
 - University of North Texas: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-money-management-center/programs-and-services/loans>

Food Insecurity

- Food Pantries
 - CSU Chico: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sa/hungry-wildcat-food-pantry.shtml>
 - Sacramento State: <http://www.csus.edu/sacstatemagazine/2018/05/whenhardtimesloom.html>
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/foodsecurity/student-cupboard.html>
 - San Marcos: <https://www.csusm.edu/asi/pantry/index.html>
- Dining Programs
 - Fullerton: http://www.fullerton.edu/housing/future_residents/gastronome.php
 - Sacramento State: <http://www.csus.edu/housing/application%20process/meal%20plan%20options%202016%20-%202017.html>
 - Fresno State: <http://www.auxiliary.com/diningservices/oncampus/dininghall.html>
- CalFresh Application Assistance
 - CSU Chico: <https://www.csuchico.edu/chc/calfresh-outreach/index.shtml>
 - CSU Los Angeles: <http://www.calstatela.edu/deanofstudents/calfresh>
- Voluntary dining hall meal donations
 - Fullerton: http://www.fullerton.edu/housing/blog/gastronome_meal_donation.php
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/foodsecurity/udhcertificates.html>

Homelessness

- CARE Teams
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/care/careteam.html>
<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/projecthope/contactinquiry.html>
- Provides short-term, on-campus emergency housing

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- CSU Channel Islands: <https://www.csuci.edu/basicneeds/emergency-housing.htm>
- Provides short-term, on-campus housing and case management
 - CSU Long Beach: http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/studentdean/emergency_grant/
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/health/counseling/case-management.html>

Clothing

- Clothing Closets
 - Fresno State: <http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/careers/closet.html>
<http://fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/projecthope/contactinquiry.html>
 - CSU San Bernardino: <https://www.csusb.edu/career-center/professional-development/clothing-closet>
 - CSU Channel Islands: <https://www.csuci.edu/news/releases/ekhos-career-closet.htm>
 - CSU East Bay: <https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2018/02/23/cal-state-east-bay-career-closet-dresses-students-for-success/>

Recommendations

- Many CSU's have participated in the Cal Fresh enrollment program. Our hope is that as appropriate all CSU campuses would participate.
- As we address these issues for all our students, some groups suffer in larger quantities. Targeted strategies to address the student populations that reported the highest levels of food insecurity and homelessness, particularly first generation, Black and Latino/a students must be implemented.
- Currently, financial aid for students at most institutions does not meet full cost of attendance (room, board, tuition, fees, books etc.). Future federal and state policy must address this issue if students are to have the funds to meet all their college costs. Otherwise, issues raised above will continue to impact our students.
- All universities within the CSU are not equal in that the amount of funds available to fund academic and co-curriculum programs/services are the same. Particularly, fees vary greatly from approximately \$900-\$4000 across CSU's. This creates vast difference in budgets to fund basic needs initiatives. The funding model and fees for service must be reviewed creating similar experiences from campus to campus.
- CSU universities are very sympathetic to the many basic needs and obstacles that impact student success. Our mission is to help every student reach their potential and graduate. Realistically, state funds do not fully cover many of our students' basic needs. Strategically, working with campus leadership, there is an opportunity to develop guidelines around basic needs practices and services funded using state dollars for our students. This is important to address now, considering the number of students who face challenges related to meeting their basic needs are likely to continue in an upward climb.
- Identify best practices within the CSU, and scale those practices (as appropriate) to additional CSUs to ensure a safety-net of services that provide continuity for our students.
- Raise awareness of services and resources among campus staff and faculty, specifically students most vulnerable to experiencing difficulties meeting their basic needs (i.e., 1st generation, African American, and Latino/a student's).
- Partner with campus housing to establish consistent strategies to help students dealing with housing displacement.

References

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<http://www.achievingthedream.org/resources/initiatives/working-students-success-network>

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Student Advancing Retention in College (ARC): <https://studentarc.org/>