

**TITLE:** Unlocking Enrollment Barriers for Parenting Students

**DESCRIPTION:** The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received a report on the Council's report on the negative impact that parenting status often has on enrollment and student success and how the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative is integrating holistic academic, basic needs, and childcare supports for parenting students.

**STAFF CONTACTS:** Dr. Chris Ledford, Associate Director, Data and Advanced Analytics  
Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Executive Director, Kentucky Student Success Collaborative

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### **COMMITTEE'S REVIEW**

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their March 25, 2024, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the March 28 board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

*How does parenthood impact enrollment and success in college? How can understanding these patterns shape efforts to grow adult and low-income enrollment?*

A wealth of studies confirm declining enrollment trends among parenting, adult, and low-income learners. Based on a national scan, this research began with expectations that these student populations, and thus their basic needs challenges, have considerable overlap. More aptly, this research began with expectations that answering the questions above could enhance efficacy of statewide efforts to grow non-traditional enrollment and overall attainment levels.

The findings are stark. Over the past decade, sizable majorities of parenting students were either low-income, adult, or female learners, and nearly half met all three criteria. Results from a novel cohort analysis suggest that parenting status has negative impacts on persistence and graduation rates, regardless of when in college students become parents. Unfortunately, parenting student enrollment also declined by more than 50% over the period. Key takeaways are that efforts to grow non-traditional and low-income learner populations must consider the critical intersections with parenting status.

CPE staff will present these findings and discuss how the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative is putting data, improvement science, and a statewide support network to work to address these and other concerns related to student basic needs insecurities across Kentucky.