

Parents as Allies in Pursuit of the DREAM

Bridging the Gaps in College Access,
Affordability, Choice, and Success

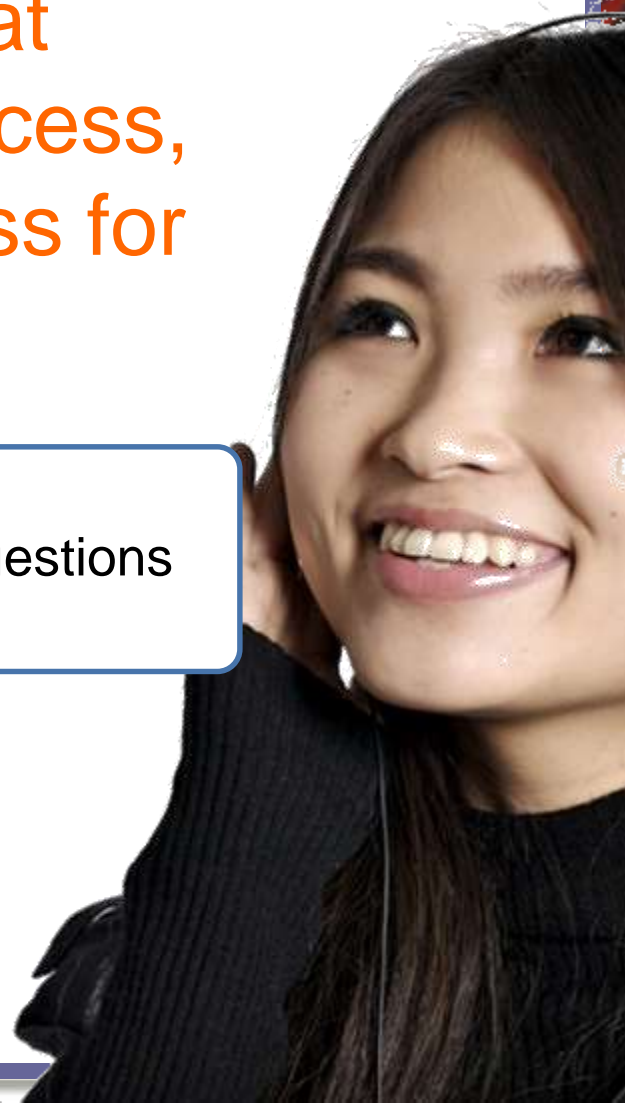
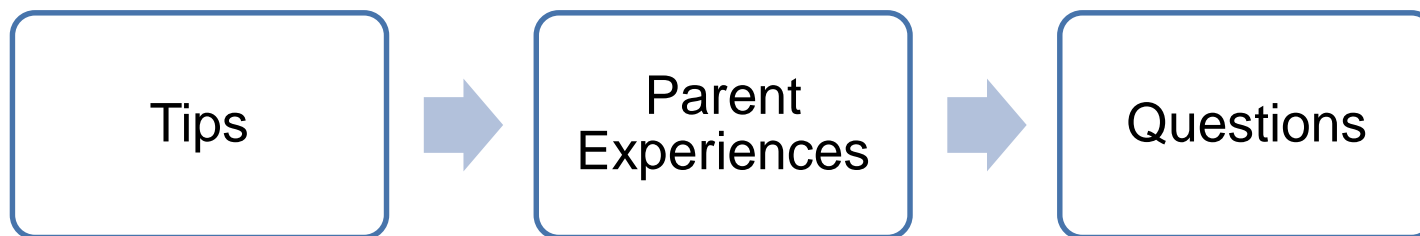
La Casa | Live.Learn.Thrive.

a Resurrection Project initiative



Objective

To provide tips and examples of parental engagement efforts that contribute to greater college access, affordability, choice, and success for our students.



What We Know

Schools and parents have different ideas of what they want from each other.

Agenda

- We moved from an “access” agenda to a “retention” agenda, and now looking for “completion.”

Partnerships

- Effective partnerships with families are essential, but this is very challenging.

College Knowledge

- First-generation parents are less likely to have access to the information they need to prepare their children for college compared to second-and third-generation parents.

Outreach

- Many groups, institutions, and organizations are mobilizing to address the need for college information among parents.

Best Practices

- Some reports profile in operational detail programs that effectively provide parents with college preparatory information in order to better prepare their children for college admission and attendance.

Types of Involvement

What do you want parents to do?

The six types of *parental involvement* modeled after Joyce Epstein's framework:

1. Parenting
2. Communicating
3. Supporting school
4. Learning at home
5. Decision making
6. Collaborating with community

Henderson, A. T., & Mapp, K. L. (2002). *A New Wave of Evidence*. Austin, TX: National Center for Family, and Community Connections with Schools.

Motivation

Why do parents become involved in their children's education?

1. Parents' **role construction**

defines beliefs about how to contribute to the basic range of activities that are important, necessary, and permissible.



2. Parents' **sense of efficacy**

in helping their children succeed focuses on the extent to which parents believe that through their involvement they can exert positive influence on educational outcomes.

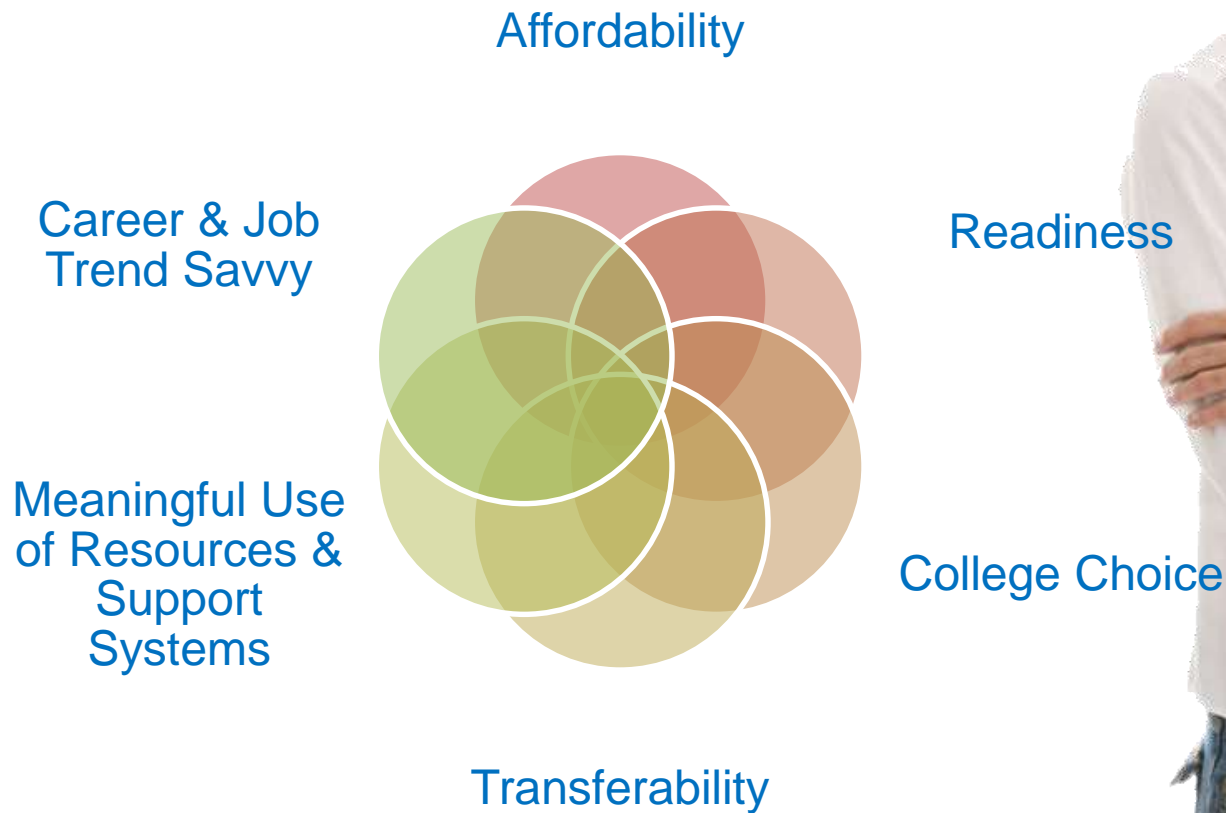


3. General invitations, demands, and opportunities for involvement refer to parent's **perception** that the child and school want them to be involved.

Hoover-Dempsey, K., & Sandler, H. M. (Spring 1997). *Why Do Parents Become Involved in Their Children's Education?* American Educational Research Association.

College Knowledge

Why are we losing students?



Attendance

Where are they?

Communicate! Good communication cuts through the clutter, it doesn't add to it. It does this by getting the right message, in the right medium, delivered by the right messengers, to the right audience.

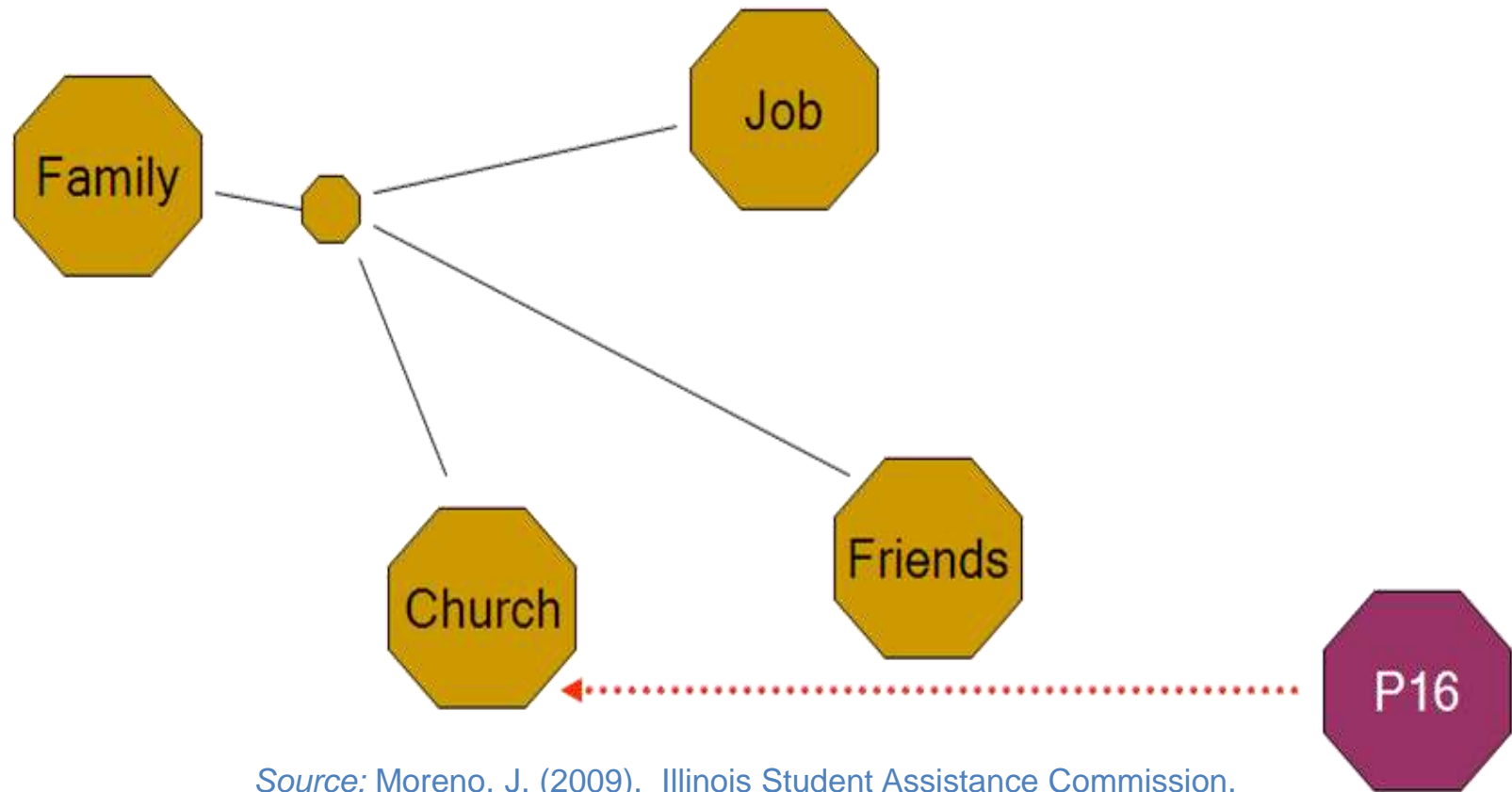
Most Helpful Knowledge Channels

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Printed Materials
- Informal Conversations
- Internet
- College Visits
- College Outreach
- College Nights
- PTA Meetings
- Radio/TV
- Newspapers
- Union

Source: Tornatzky, L., Citler, R., Lee, J. (2002). College Knowledge: What Parents Need to Know and Why They Don't Know It. Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

Outreach

Reach your target audience through influencers.



Source: Moreno, J. (2009). Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

Programs & Services

The TRP/La Casa approach...



College Talks



Parent Mentors



Resource Center



**Printed
Materials**



**College & Career
Coaching**

Approach

What to do. How to do it.

Long-Term Programs

- **Relationships of Shared Responsibility**
 - Escuelita, Carleton College
 - Illinois PTA, Various school districts
 - ParentMentors/PadresMentores, The Resurrection Project
- **Build College Knowledge**
 - Universidad de Medicina, UIC
 - Students, Teachers, Educators & Parents (STEP), DePaul University
 - Adelante! Mother-Daughter Program, Chicago State University
 - Parent School Partnership Program, MALDEF
 - CollegeTalks/CharlasUniversitarias, La Casa Student Housing – The ResurrectionProject
- **Role Construction**
 - GEAR UP Book Clubs & Parent Advocate, Chicago Teacher's Center at Northeastern Illinois University

Short-Term Programs

- **Develop a Skill**
 - Community Technology Access Program (Community TAP), Chicago State University
 - Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP), The Resurrection Project
- **Build Social Capital**
 - ParentNET, Illinois Student Assistance Commission

One-Day Events

- **Workshops**
 - Pathways to College & Career, Chicago Public Schools
 - College Goal Sunday, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - Elev8, The Resurrection Project
- **Conferences**
 - Bilingual Parent Summit, Illinois State Board of Education
 - Parent University, Various school districts
- **Broadcasts**
 - Es el momento, Univision

Tools

- **Access Technology**
 - ChicagoVoz.org, The Resurrection Project
 - College Zone Outreach Centers, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- **Ready-to-Use Presentations**
 - Novelas Educativas, Hispanic Scholarship Fund
 - Various Topics, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- **Websites**
 - ISAC.org, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 - ActivateLatino.org, Maria Bucio
- **Printed Materials**

Lessons Learned

What are the common characteristics of exemplary programs?

1. Committed Program Champions
2. Cultural Considerations
3. Program Evaluation
4. Successful Partnerships
5. Stable Funding Sources

Torrez, C, & Marquez, A. (2005). *Reaching Higher Ground: Parental Outreach Programs at the Postsecondary Level*. The Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

Parent Perspectives

Their issues deserve attention...



Araceli
Lucio



Francisca
Agustin

Parents as Allies in Pursuit of the DREAM

Transform through innovative programming.

1. Assert ***parental role and sense of efficacy*** in effecting greater educational success for their children, our students.
2. Enhance ***communication*** between parents and staff.
3. Empower parents to undertake informed ***advisory and advocacy roles*** by exposing them to *academic, college, and career information*.
4. Expose parents to ***trusted sources and environments*** that lead to college enrollment and retention of students.
5. Expand the family's ***social capital*** by establish networks of parents, educators, and outreach professionals who will support and mentor each other.
6. Develop strategies that allow schools and families to **work together** in efforts to start promoting *college preparation* in the middle school and intensify in high school.



María Bucio

Director of La Casa Student Housing
& Resource Center

mbucio@resurrectionproject.org
Ph (312) 880-1889

The Resurrection Project
www.lacasastudenthousing.org