Paving the Way To and Through Higher Education: Learning from Indiana’s Homeless Liaisons

[WEBINAR]
Thursday, February 28, 2019 \ 1:00 – 2:15PM EST

www.schoolhouseconnection.org
HAVE A QUESTION?
This webinar is for you. Enter your questions in the questions pane and click ‘Send’.

RECORDING & HANDOUTS
An archive of this webinar and all materials will be posted here.

If you’ve signed up for this webinar, you will receive a link to the recording in an email after the webinar is over.
HELLO!

I am Jillian Sitjar
Program Manager, Higher Education
jillian@schoolhouseconnection.org
SchoolHouse Connection works to **overcome homelessness through education**. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

- **Website**
- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify at least one strategy to better support homeless students during the transition from high school to higher education.
- Hear from two higher education liaisons about their roles and responsibilities on college campuses.
- Learn best practices in supporting homeless college students and considerations for implementing the role of higher education liaison.
EDUCATION LEADS HOME

A National Campaign Building Stronger Futures for Homeless Students

- Young children will participate in quality early childhood programs at the same rate as their housed peers by 2026.
- High school students will reach a 90 percent graduation rate by 2030.
- Post-secondary students will reach a 60 percent post-secondary attainment rate by 2034.

www.educationleadshome.org
About 3.5 million young adults (18-25 yo), about 1 in 10 experienced homelessness on their own over the course of a year (Chapin Hall)
9% university students
14% community college students

9% of university students and 14% of community college students experienced homelessness within the last year (Hope Lab)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Group</th>
<th>Risk Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth with less than a high school diploma or GED</td>
<td>346% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth reporting annual household income of less than $24,000</td>
<td>162% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American youth</td>
<td>83% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LGBT youth</td>
<td>120% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic, non-White youth</td>
<td>33% higher risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried parenting youth</td>
<td>200% higher risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Findings from Voices of Youth Count, an initiative of Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago | voicesofyouthcount.org
WHY HIGHER EDUCATION

Jobs
Over 95% of jobs created since 2010 have gone to college-educated workers.

Beyond High School
By 2020, 65% of all jobs will require education beyond high school.

Afford Housing
Postsecondary education is necessary for a job that pays enough to afford housing and avoid homelessness.

Cost
The cost of attending college has skyrocketed over the last several decades with federal pell grants not keeping pace.

Health & Well-Being
High school and college graduation are linked to other important indicators of health and well-being.
HELLO!
I am Tonya Monnier!
District Social Worker/McKinney Vento Liaison
MSD of Pike Township
TMonnier@pike.k12.in.us
DEMOGRAPHICS

Located in Indianapolis, Indiana - Suburban community

11,085 Students

Free and reduced lunch is 70%

Diverse community of students
- 59 countries
- 85 native languages
IDENTIFICATION
- Identify students/families that meet the definition of homeless
- Code them as McKinney Vento

ENROLLMENT
- Enroll students immediately

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
- Assist in removing barriers for students/families (transportation, free lunch/textbooks, access to clubs/sports)

TRANSITION
- Discuss post-secondary plans
- Completion of FAFSA
- Explore college choice/college reality,
- Apply to schools
- Search for scholarships
HOW TO IDENTIFY STUDENTS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

**Enrollment form** ➔ Ask the right questions on forms.

**Staff** ➔ Train secretaries, administrators, counselors to alert liaison if they have a student/family in a homeless situation.

**Posters** ➔ Post information around the school/community.

**Engaging with Students** ➔ Talk to students.
TRANSITION FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE

WHAT IT COULD LOOK LIKE

- Student enters college confident as far as financial aid, but nervous.
- After 1 year they call liaison for help

- Student enters college confident
- Immediately goes to SPOC with questions about the campus.
- Student engages in the school climate
  - Feels supported
- Student doesn’t need to contact the High School liaison because of SPOC help with FAFSA questions, verification for independent student status, etc.
Trying to navigate 100’s of different colleges.
Example: Verification letter needs to be on school letterhead- barrier

Trying to find support- mental health, medical, housing, financial since I don’t know each college community.

A homeless student was able to connect to support on ISU campus and made Dean’s list during his 2nd semester.
I would say his success is because he was able to have the support to navigate the campus. He only called me when he was coming to town to visit.
BEST PRACTICES TO REPLICATE

- At least one positive adult
- Spend time getting to know the student
- Talk about homelessness in higher education
- Collaborate
- Hold a conference
Homeless youth need adults who will advocate for them.
Homeless youth all have a story, and that story is powerful - let them tell it!
Be the first support person for these youth
Network/Community resources
HELLO!
I am Michael Kendall!
Assistant Director of Scholar Support Programs
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis
Division of Undergraduate Education
mikendal@indiana.edu
The Power of Community & Culture Through Curriculum & Commitment
Independent Youth at IUPUI

- Students with documented experiences in Foster Care, as Wards of Court, Unaccompanied Youth, in Court-Appointed Care, with Homelessness or Housing Insecurity.

Table 1: Retention and Graduation of First-Time, Full-Time Beginners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort Year</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>One-Year Retention (Any IU Campus)</th>
<th>4-year Graduation (Any IU Campus)</th>
<th>6-Year Graduation (Any IU Campus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013*</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014*</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015*</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GrandTotal</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>9%*</td>
<td>18%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Retention and Graduation for THRIVE Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort Year</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>One-Semester Retention (Any Campus)</th>
<th>1-year Retention (Any Campus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017*</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>69%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018*</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GrandTotal</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>69%*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transition to College with THRIVE

- Community Connection & Referral
- Pre-College Outreach & Coaching
  - Peer Mentoring
  - Summer Bridge
- Linked 1st Year Courses
- On-Campus Employment Placement
- Individualized Success Coaching
- Co-Curricular Programming
  - Campus Learning Community

Leaning In
& meeting our students where they are

- purpose, meaning, self-authorship, curiosity, awareness
- growth-orientation, culture of possibility, recognition of unique value
- interdependence, community, mutual support, inclusion, sense of belonging, compassion, collaboration
- housing support, spaces on-campus, campus employment, self-care, scholarships
- food pantry, clothing closet, emergency grants
Realizing our human capacity for interdependence and interrelatedness, mutual support.

We are all in this Together.

Together We THRIVE.

Michael Kendall, MPA
Assistant Director of Scholar Support Programs
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis
Division of Undergraduate Education
HELLO!

I am Dr. Tiffany Peters!
Assistant Dean of Students, Student Affairs
Ball State University
tmpeters@bsu.edu
PAVING THE WAY TO AND THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION:

Learning from Indiana’s Homeless Liaisons
About Ball State University

Founded in 1918, Ball State is a state-assisted residential university in Muncie, Indiana, a midsize Midwestern city one hour northeast of Indianapolis. About 21,000 undergraduate and graduate students enroll each year in diverse academic programs on and off campus.

Ball State's 731-acre campus in the heart of Muncie, Indiana, includes 112 academic, administrative, auxiliary, and residential buildings. Including, twelve residence hall complexes and two apartment communities are occupied by about 7,200 students.
Approach to Serving Homeless and Housing Insecure Students

• Provide resources and services on an individualized basis to students upon disclosure to the university.

• Identify and make intentional referrals to various campus services and resources based on an individualized assessment of the student’s needs.

• Treat all students with dignity and respect, recognizing the stigma and challenges facing homeless and housing insecure students require an intentional, sensitive, and consistent approach.

• Empower students to utilize and navigate campus and community resources. When appropriate provide tailored assistance to identify and work through barriers or challenges.

• Serve as a well-informed resource for students, faculty, and staff on university policies, processes, and services.

• Identify student needs and develop campus wide initiatives in service to students.
Roles and Responsibilities of Ball State’s Liaison

• Provide individualized student service and campus referrals for students facing basic needs insecurity, including homelessness and housing insecurity
• Chair campus committee on Student Homelessness and Housing Insecurity
• Liaison with on campus and community stakeholders
• Develop and maintain Student Resource Guide
• Communicate trends and concerns to Student Affairs Leadership
• Seek out educational materials, best practices, and training opportunities for the Division of Student Affairs and the campus at large
• Provide support and information to the campus community
DESIGNATING A LIAISON

• Identified a need in Spring 2018
• Formed a committee to identify current programs/services and determine needs of students facing homelessness and housing insecurity
• Reviewed publications, best practices, resources, and programs from professional organizations and other institutions
• Identified that the designation of a single point of contact is best practice
• Assistant Dean of Students selected based on role, location in central SA office, & training/background in student and campus service
Identifying Students Experiencing Homelessness

• Referrals from key campus partners including, but not limited to: Financial Aid, Housing and Residence Life, Faculty, Office of Student Life, Retention and Graduation

• Contact from Family/Parents

• Contact with High School SPOCS

• Email outreach in partnership with Financial Aid (in development)

• Online Student of Concern Form
On and Off Campus Partners

On Campus

• Admissions and Orientation
• Guardian Scholars
• Financial Aid
• Housing and Residence Life (year round housing)
• Student Rights and Community Standards (Student Emergency Loan)
• Student Life (Cardinal Kitchen Food Pantry)
• Counseling Center/Health Center
• Career Center

Off Campus

• Muncie Mission
• YWCA
• Bridges Community Services
• Salvation Army
• A Better Way
• Society of St. Vincent DePaul
• Second Harvest Food Bank
CHALLENGES AND SUCCESSES

For Students and the University
Takeaways and Recommendations

• Support from leadership
• Building collaboration with key offices
• Identify point person in each office for coordination and referrals
• Intentional and thoughtful referral process
• Develop and maintain a multi-discipline committee
• Site visits to community resources and shelters, develop contacts and connections
• Propose programs, initiatives, and ideas to serve students based on best practices, research, assessment, and needs of institution
• Case management system/process
SB 464

Provides unaccompanied homeless youth access to:

1. Birth certificates
2. Photo IDs
3. Driver’s licenses
4. High school equivalency exam

Without charge or the consent of a parent/guardian

To support this Bill

Send a short email to CHIP (Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention) explaining why you support this access for homeless youth to agibson@chipindy.org.

Include your address, and please copy patricia@schoolhouseconnection.org.
HB 1152

Establishes the student hunger and homelessness study committee, to:

1. Study the prevalence of homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity among students at IN colleges and universities
2. Provide suggestions for eliminating those issues

To support this Bill

Send a short email to Representative Ed Harris’s office explaining why you support action on college student homelessness in Indiana to samantha.bresnahan@iga.in.gov.

Include your address, and please copy patricia@schoolhouseconnection.org.
THANKS!

Any questions?
RESOURCES

- Webinars
- State Laws
- Analysis of FAFSA & FAFSA Tips
- Youth-facing Guides
- Pathways to Partnerships
- Tip Sheets - Transition from High School to Postsecondary