How A Small Rural Community College Supports Students Experiencing Homelessness

Thursday, January 23, 2020 \ 1-2:15 pm EST
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
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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

1. **Hear from College of the Redwoods staff**, including senior leadership, about how and why they created a support program for students experiencing homelessness.

2. Learn how a small rural community college **creates a system of support, both on and off campus**, to identify and support students experiencing homelessness.

3. Identify 2-3 strategies that can be adapted and implemented on campuses to better support students experiencing homelessness.
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.
14% university students
18% community college students

14% of four-year students and 18% of two-year college students respondents replied they experienced homelessness within the last year (Hope Center)
Rates of youth experiencing homelessness were similar in rural and nonrural areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Youth 13-17</th>
<th>Young Adults 18-25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household prevalence in urban counties</td>
<td>Population prevalence in urban counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household prevalence in rural counties</td>
<td>Population prevalence in rural counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In rural areas, youth experiences of homelessness are more likely to be hidden like sleeping in vehicles or couchsurfing.

Challenges:
- Access to education
- Jobs
- Services
- Support
How A Small Rural Community College Supports Students Experiencing Homelessness
Today’s Agenda

- Introductions
- Brief overview of College of the Redwoods and student population
- How you're identifying students experiencing homelessness. Who are the key partners?
- What resources and services do you provide this population?
- What challenges do these students still exist?
- What are some of the next steps you're doing to provide support for these students?
- How were you able to create this support program and system? What advice do they have for leadership at other institutions?
- What advice do you have for folks working with this population?
Presenters

Keith Flamer
President and Superintendent for College of the Redwoods District

Joe Hash
Vice President, Student Development
Student Learning Support Services for College of the Redwoods District

Kintay Johnson
Director, Special Programs for College of the Redwoods District

Marty Coelho
Executive Director College Advancement for College of the Redwoods District
Brief Overview of College of the Redwoods and Student Population

The Office of Institutional Research (IR) analyzes and reports information to enhance decision making at the College of the Redwoods while helping ensure the integrity of the data being reported.

### Filter by
- Location:
  - Del Norte
  - Eureka
  - Klamath Trinity
  - Mendocino
  - Online
  - Pelican Bay
- Gender: All
- Ethnicity: All
- Age group:
  - younger than 13
  - 18 - 24
  - 25 - 29
  - 30 - 39
  - 40 - 49
  - 50 and older

### Headcount by Year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Summer</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018 - 2019</td>
<td>5,056</td>
<td>4,939</td>
<td>1,763</td>
<td>11,758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 - 2018</td>
<td>5,054</td>
<td>4,849</td>
<td>1,699</td>
<td>11,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 - 2017</td>
<td>5,462</td>
<td>5,161</td>
<td>1,956</td>
<td>12,579</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 - 2016</td>
<td>5,303</td>
<td>5,232</td>
<td>2,222</td>
<td>12,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 - 2015</td>
<td>4,955</td>
<td>4,883</td>
<td>1,508</td>
<td>11,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### District Resident FTES Apportionment by Year
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>3,635.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>3,966.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>3,638.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>4,174.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>3,853.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summary Demographics 2018 - 2019

#### Location
- Eureka: 71%
- Del Norte: 9%
- Klamath Trinity: 2%
- Online: 15%
- Pelican Bay: 4%

#### Ethnicity
- American Indian: 6%
- Asian: 3%
- Black or African American: 3%
- Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 1%
- Hispanic/Latino: 22%
- Two or More Races: 8%
- Unknown: 3%
- White: 54%
- Other: 3%

#### Gender
- Female: 64%
- Male: 46%

#### Age
- Average age: 28
- Younger than 18: 12%
- 18 - 24: 39%
- 25 - 29: 15%
- 30 - 39: 18%
- 40 - 49: 8%
- 50 and older: 7%

#### Federal Pell Grant
- PELL: 28%

#### Disability
- DSPS: 9%

Note: Subgroups consisting of fewer than 15 students are automatically excluded from view and percent-of-total calculations.

Data last refreshed: 2019-08-15
How We Identify Students Experiencing Homelessness

• McKinney-Vento

• Through the CR application for admission

• Self-Referrals

• Through referrals from CR frontline staff, Instructors, Managers, and Administrators

• Accessing the Food Pantry for Resources

• CR Scholarship Application

• Community Partners: Office of Education (Humboldt, Del Norte), Humboldt State University, Department of Health and Human Services, Continuum of Care Committee Members
What Resources and Services Do We Provide

- Opened a Food Pantry and clothing closet on the Eureka Main Campus
- Opened our gym showers on the Eureka Campus
- Laundry access
- Access to a health clinic and emotional / mental health
- Assist students with signing up for student support services
What Challenges Still Exist

Nearly half of all community college students in the nation are experiencing overwhelming housing challenges:

- 35% experience ongoing housing insecurity
- 15% are homeless
- 56% of community college students face food insecurity

Wisconsin HOPE Lab and the Association of Community College Trustees
What Challenges Still Exist at College of the Redwoods

• In Fall of 2018, over 100 CR students self-identified as homeless or facing housing insecurity.

• Our students report that they are living in their vehicles, moving from sofa to sofa, living in shelters, and some are even camping in the woods behind the College.

• We also know there is a significant number of our students not getting enough to eat. The CR Food Pantry is already serving over 259 students a week.

• Lack of available housing/low-income rentals in the areas we serve.

• Students lack resources for rental listings, rental applications, and deposits
What are some of the next steps you're doing to provide support for these students?
GROVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Mission:** To achieve improved academic and social outcomes by increasing student retention, success, and completion rates among students attending CR who are food and housing insecure.

The goal of this college-focused food insecurity and rapid rehousing plan is to provide services, including: emergency assistance; access to food, homelessness prevention services and activities; and housing and motel vouchers to students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity while attending CR.
The GROVE Seven Guiding Principles

Guiding Principle 1: Community

Guiding Principle 2: Competence

Guiding Principle 3: Compassion

Guiding Principle 4: Communication

Guiding Principle 5: Commitment

Guiding Principle 6: Collaboration

Guiding Principle 7: Culture
Redwoods Room & Board Scholarship Fund

• The College of the Redwoods Residence Hall Scholarship program is designed to provide **transitional housing** for students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity.
• Each scholarship award is for one semester. The awards are renewable for a maximum of two academic years as long as the student continues to meet the scholarship requirement criteria.
• The intent is to provide each student with the support and life skills to transition to off-campus housing as soon as they are capable.
Other Things We Are Doing to Support Students

• Expanded the Hours of Eureka Food Pantry to 5 days a week.
• Hired 2 Academic Counselors.
• Opened Food Pantries on the Del Norte and KT campuses.
• Found BSW/MSW Interns to serve as Peer Mentors/Navigators.
• Assist students with signing up for Community Resources.
• Assist students with finding housing on-campus or within the local community.
• Serve/participate in local COC Meetings.
• Partnerships with local housing authorities and rapid rehousing organizations to provide emergency services.
• Expanded Room and Board Scholarship placements to 8 students.
• Piloted Safe-Space overnight parking.
• Emergency Residence Halls Housing.
How were we able to create this support program and system?
What advice do we have for leadership at other institutions?
Resources

- Redwoods Room and Board Scholarship Webpage
  - [https://www.redwoods.edu/foundation/Room-and-Board-Scholarship](https://www.redwoods.edu/foundation/Room-and-Board-Scholarship)
- Resource Center Webpage
  - [https://www.redwoods.edu/resourcecenter](https://www.redwoods.edu/resourcecenter)

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California Higher Education Basic Needs Alliance (CHEBNA) Conference

February 7, 2020 \ 10:30AM \ Newport I + II

Learning from Liaisons: Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness
Resources

- Tip Sheets for Helping Homeless Youth Succeed in College
- Higher Education Webinars
- The Hope Center Report - College and University Basic Needs Insecurity
- Chapin Hall - Youth Homelessness in Rural America
- 5 Guides to Support Low-Income and Homeless Youth in California
- Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness: Perspectives from California’s Community College
Questions
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