



**EQUITY
FIRST**

Parent Collaborative
Approach to
Postsecondary Readiness

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Waukegan to College

Introductions



Laura Rios, Program Director



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Outcomes

- Participants leave with a greater commitment to integrating parents into their college readiness programming
- Participants have practical solutions for the challenges that they might face



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What are your
expectation for this
workshop?

Please share in the chat



Which image best represents your experience in engaging with parents? Why?

Assumptions

- Parents exert significant influence over their children
- Parents want to be involved
- Many parents of first-generation students lack knowledge about the post-secondary educational system
- This is culturally appropriate in many cases
- We are using the term “parents” inclusively; we are referring to birth parents, legal guardians and caregivers, etc.

Why include parents?

- Parents can help to identify students who will succeed in our program
- Parents can serve as an extension of our team (accountability, communication encouragement, etc)
- Parents have a network and can encourage a college-going culture
- -Parents need to be part of the decision-making process *“You have my blessing”*

How to include parents

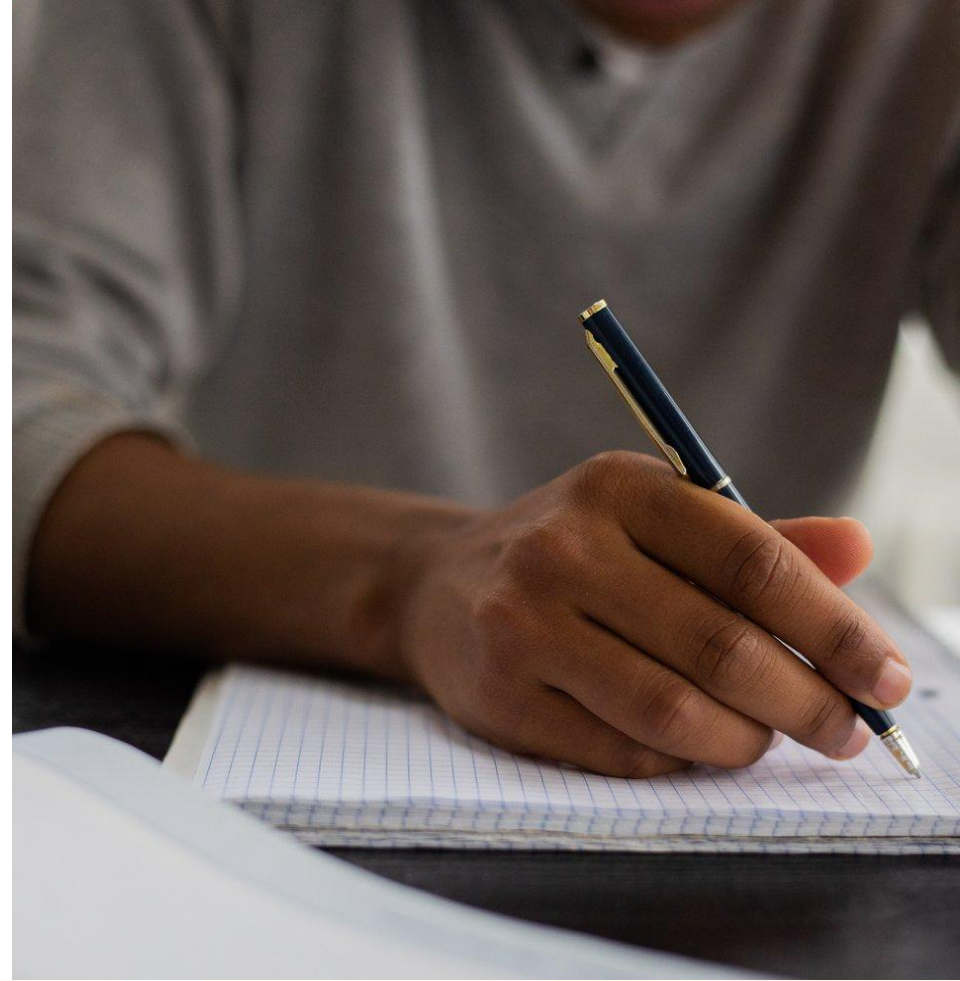
- Include them from the beginning, especially during the application process
- Engage parents through continuous evaluation and feedback in order to inform programming
- Involve parents in workshops, advising, and leadership, alongside their students
- Always respect the authority of the parent

Challenges in working with parents

- It requires a lot of trust, time, and relationship building
- It requires education for the parents, desire on their part or yours is not enough
- Even in a multicultural setting, there can be a dominant cultural group of parents which requires a focus on inclusivity
- You must learn how to engage parents whose cultural values and systems are different than yours

Group Activity

Put yourself in the place of a parent of a first-generation college student applying to a college readiness/access program. You are asked to write an essay explaining why you want your child to be in the program and how you are willing to participate in their academic success.



Debrief

- What is one idea that you want to go back and apply?
- How do you anticipate this will impact your outcomes with students?