Panel:

Designing with and for Single Moms: New Models Focused on Increasing Retention of Single Mothers

How might community colleges dramatically improve completion rates for single mothers by intentionally addressing the unique needs of this population?

Education Design Lab

April 5, 2022 - 11:00 -11:40 am
Harbor D, Level 2

ASU +GSV SUMMIT

The Design Challenge

The Single Moms Success Design Challenge, a learner-centered design-innovation process led by the Education Design Lab and generously supported by the ECMC Foundation, aims to address the needs and experiences of this unique learner population to support their academic success and economic mobility.

Our Goal: to increase single mother learners' attainment of degrees or high-quality credentials by 30% at each institution by 2024. The pilot will reach 6,000 to 8,000 single mother learners.

Background + Institutional Partners

Nearly **11%** of all U.S. college students today are single mothers. 89% of single mother learners have low incomes, and only **28%** of them earn degrees or credentials within 6 years of enrolling in college. Higher education as it exists today was not designed for these learners, who face barriers to academic success as they juggle work, life, and school in their attempts to build family-sustaining careers.

The Design Cohort

Four regionally accredited, public community colleges were selected to participate in this design challenge, consisting of an intensive, two-year design and prototype phase, followed by a multi-year implementation and evaluation. Using the Lab's four-stage innovation process, institutions will design, launch, and test scalable interventions to dramatically improve attainment rates for single mothers who seek to obtain a degree or high-quality credential from community college.

CNM Central New Mexico Community College
Delgado Community College
MCC Monroe Community College
IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Session Flow

1. Single Moms Success Design Challenge Overview
2. Meet the Institutional Designers
3. Topic 1: Cross-team Collaboration + Breaking from the Status Quo
4. Topic 2: Pilots + Response to COVID-19
5. Topic 4: Learner Impact + Successes
6. Questions + Discussions

Left to right: Single moms develop prototypes for the types of services they'd like to see at their campus. Faculty at Ivy Tech Community College take in learner perspectives and data during a Gallery Walk exercise.

Meet our Panelists

ALISA WELLS
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & WRAPAROUND SUPPORT
IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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TAMIKA DUPLESSIS
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS
DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
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ROSARIO TORRES
PROGRAM OFFICER
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Session Objectives

- To share with education leaders and practitioners real-world examples of 2-year public institutions using human-centered design to create end-to-end solutions for single mothers that lead to improved postsecondary outcomes and opportunities for economic mobility.
- Through case studies, highlight voices of parent learners from Ivy Tech Community College, Delgado Community College, and other institutions in our cohort and share how education leaders can translate these insights into change on their campuses.

About the Lab

Education Design Lab (the Lab for short) is a nonprofit innovation engine that co-designs, validates, and scales education-to-workforce models through a human-centered design process focused on understanding learner experiences, addressing equity gaps in higher education, and accelerating economic mobility for new majority learners. Our biggest areas of work include improved career pathway visibility, micro-pathways, 21st century skills, micro-credentials, upskilling workers, and training college leadership teams in change management and agile prototyping.

To learn more about the ongoing development of the pilots or how you can launch a similar design challenge on your campus, visit us at: **eddesignlab.org/singlemomssuccess**.
On Twitter: @eddesignlab #SingleMomsSuccess