



For College, Community, and Justice

HOPE4COLLEGE.COM

Learning from the #RealCollege Movement

Dear Dear Friend

Happy New Year!

We hope you are feeling refreshed and looking forward to digging into more #RealCollege work this year. It is the movement's 5th year, and it will be better than ever. For example, on February 12th we will kickoff the release of our latest series of #RealCollege survey reports, and on October 10-11 we will host the 5th annual conference!

Our team continues to grow and publish new supports for your efforts. Read on for more.

The Hope Center welcomes a new director and two new advisory board members!

This week we welcomed our new Director of Community Impact, Paula Umaña, formerly of the Community College of Philadelphia. Paula established the Single Stop program at her college, and supported students so successfully that a rigorous quasi-experimental evaluation determined it was effectively boosting students' academic performance. Her expertise in project implementation and evaluation, investment in advancing collaborations to create systemic change, and commitment to advocate for disenfranchised communities, have made her a national leader. As Director of Community Impact, she will support the #RealCollege movement, translating the Hope Center's research into useful tools and techniques for fellow practitioners.

In addition, we are thrilled to have two new advisory board members: Loree D. Jones and Nicole Lynn Lewis. Loree is chief of staff for the chancellor of Rutgers University–Camden, host of #RealCollege2020. Nicole is Chief Executive Officer of Generation Hope, the only community-based nonprofit organization in the Washington D.C. region focused on college completion and early childhood success for teen parents.



Paula Umaña

Meet our new director



Loree D. Jones



Nicole Lynn Lewis

Meet our new board members

Completion Grants: A College Affordability Innovation Worthy of Public Investment?

Completion grants are an increasingly popular practice in higher education, but there is not yet any rigorous evidence that they are effective or equitable. While descriptive research indicates completion grants are a promising practice, policy makers would benefit from forthcoming comprehensive and rigorous research regarding the short and long-term impact of this kind of financial aid.



Read the policy brief

#RealCollege Issues in the News



College Students Face Housing, Food Insecurity

What do you imagine when you picture homelessness?

It includes #RealCollege students couch surfing, sleeping in a car, staying in a shelter, hotel, or motel after taking classes in “multimillion-dollar, state-of-the-art academic buildings.”

Read the article

'I'm still here': Housing insecurity creates daily obstacles and few solutions

Two Temple students share their stories about housing insecurity, an issue that affected almost half of college students last year.

[Read the article](#)



No home for the holidays: Why colleges should stop forcing students to leave campus during breaks

Some students didn't have a warm home to return to during break.

West Chester University, Kennesaw State University, and Oregon Stat University set great models on supporting #RealCollege students year round and for success.

[Read the article](#)

What We're Reading

- The prestigious *Journal for Policy Analysis and Management* features a new article from our founder Sara Goldrick-Rab and affiliates Drew M. Anderson, Katherine M. Broton and Robert Kelchen: [Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of Need-Based Financial Aid: Longitudinal Assessment of the Wisconsin Scholars Grant](#)
- [Opinion: Starving the CUNY System Erodes an Engine for Equality](#)
- [The Syllabus: My higher ed hopes for 2020 and beyond](#)

Join our team!

The Hope Center is growing! Want to come work with us, or know someone who would be the perfect fit? Take a look at our current opening for a Assistant Director of Grants Management. We will also have research positions opening up soon.

[Join the team](#)



Meet The Hope Center Staff Out in the Wild!

- **January 23, 2020:** Sara Goldrick Rab at the Philadelphian Phorum - Philadelphia, PA
- **January 24, 2020:** Sara Goldrick-Rab and Paula Umaña at GovLabPHL - Philadelphia, PA

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