

The #RealCollege Virtual Journey

Path 2: Learning and Growing Evidence-Based Practices

Resources for Practitioners and Institutional Leaders

[Hope Center Research](#)

The work gathered here encompasses the full range of Hope Center research work. You will find policy briefs, white papers and academic articles. We endeavor to make this a useful and easy to access library so that researchers, practitioners, policy makers and journalists can easily review the latest work we are producing.

[Lowering College Students' Bills with Energy Assistance Programs](#)

For the nearly 85% of college students who live off campus, rent and utilities are major costs that can add up fast. Utility bills can be especially difficult to cover, as energy costs are volatile. Fortunately, many utility companies offer programs to lower those bills, helping students avoid financial distress.

[#RealCollege 2021: Basic Needs Insecurity During the Ongoing Pandemic](#)

The latest report examines the pandemic's impact on the #RealCollege students who were able to continue their education in this challenging environment. We analyze results from the 2020 #RealCollege Survey, completed by more than 195,000 students attending 202 colleges and universities in 42 states.

[Recommendations for Higher Education Institutions to Implement Federal Guidance on SNAP Expansion for College Students During COVID-19](#)

While enrollment, retention, and persistence numbers are plummeting across the nation, the economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic creates an imminent threat for college students' ability to secure food, housing, and other basic needs. We have an opportunity to help them connect with food benefits and must act now.

[Supporting Community College Completion with a Culture of Caring: A Case Study of Amarillo College](#)

This project expands on the case study Funded by the Trellis Foundation focuses on Amarillo College's Advocacy & Resource Center. The study was designed to answer the question –*Does Building an ARC Ensure Academic Success and Academic Attainment?*

[Supporting #RealCollege Students with Caring Enrollment Management and Financial Aid Practices During COVID-19](#)

To help you effectively support students, our team at The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice offer considerations and resources for enrollment management and financial aid offices as colleges and universities across the United States and around the world are scrambling to keep their students, faculty, and staff healthy, safe, and educated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Surviving COVID-19: A #RealCollege Guide for Students](#)

We know this is a time of tremendous stress and uncertainty. Please know that you are not alone. Your needs are legitimate, and you deserve support. This guide addresses common needs and offers resources. We also urge you to seek support from your college or university. We want you to be healthy and continue your education. We believe in you.

[UWKC Benefits Hub Report](#)

The Benefits Hubs operated by the United Way of King County (UWKC) in Seattle’s community and technical colleges (as well as one public university) offer an alternate model. Over the last academic year, we explored the Benefits Hub approach, which is an innovative cross-sectoral partnership between community-based organizations and higher education institutions. We find the model promising, and this report explains its key elements.

Resources for Faculty

[Fast Fund](#)

The FAST Fund delivers money quickly when students face emergencies. They provide grants to faculty, who then distribute the money directly to students. No paperwork, no waiting—emergency aid done right.

[Spreading the Word- Supporting Students’ Basic Needs with a Syllabus Statement and a Welcome Survey](#)

Sharing information about support for students’ basic needs on course syllabi is an inexpensive, efficient, and effective way to raise awareness among both students and faculty. While syllabi are famously dense documents filled with course information, they are also communication devices that convey information about the institution’s values and policies. In addition to the syllabus statement, professors can help establish a culture of care in their classroom by inviting students to share a little

information about themselves with a “welcome survey.” A welcome survey is a simple, yet powerful way to immediately start building a culture of care between the professor and students.

[When It Comes to Caring About Your Students, a Little Can Go a Long Way](#)

Basic needs security is a key factor in determining a student’s likelihood of finishing college, but there is more to our humanity than food and shelter: relationships, especially those developed in college, can meaningfully influence a student’s success as well. This is particularly true when it comes to student-faculty relationships. Unfortunately, little research exists exploring how faculty can more effectively play a role in their students’ lives. But a new study, “My Professor Cares: Experimental Evidence on the Role of Faculty Engagement,” sheds some light on the effect even a minimal increase in faculty engagement can have on a student’s academic future, especially for minoritized students just starting college.

Resources to Activate Students

[Challah for Hunger](#)

Challah for Hunger works to take action against hunger on college campuses. They have a Resource Library for students to access immediate food and other financial assistance.

[Generation Hope](#)

Generation Hope surrounds motivated teen parents and their children with the mentors, emotional support, and financial resources that they need to thrive in college and kindergarten, thereby driving a two-generation solution to poverty.

[Rise](#)

Rise is a student-led advocacy organization aiming to put higher education in reach for all. Their Student Navigator Network is a portal for college students affected by COVID-10 to seek help. When students apply, a case manager will reach out to help them find emergency financial aid, apply for public benefits, and connect with local resources.

[Swipe Out Hunger](#)

Swipe Out Hunger works with college campuses to design and develop anti-hunger programs, tailored to the unique needs of each community. Our national movement spans more than 130 colleges and has served 2 million nutritious meals to date.