



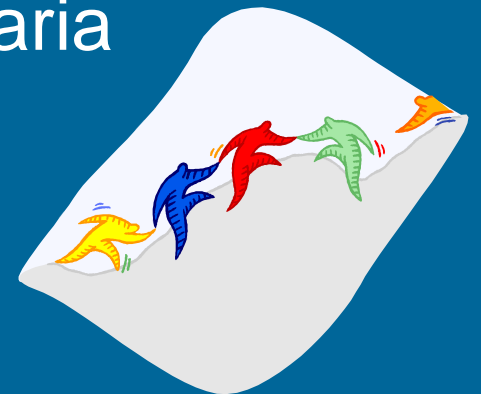
Heroes, Helpers and Helicopters: A P-20 Perspective on Parent Involvement in Education

Colorado Council on High School and College Relations Conference
December 3, 2009

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Session Overview

- K-12 Parent involvement
- Parent involvement in college
- Parent involvement examples at Auraria campus
- Family involvement examples at Auraria
- Q & A



Research on Parent Involvement in K-12 Education

- Parent involvement is not limited to taking part in school activities that are managed by the school, primarily on the school premises on the school's terms (Henry, 1996).
 - Parent involvement that impacts student achievement transcends “bake sales”
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Research on Parent Involvement in K-12 Education

New approach to parent involvement includes:

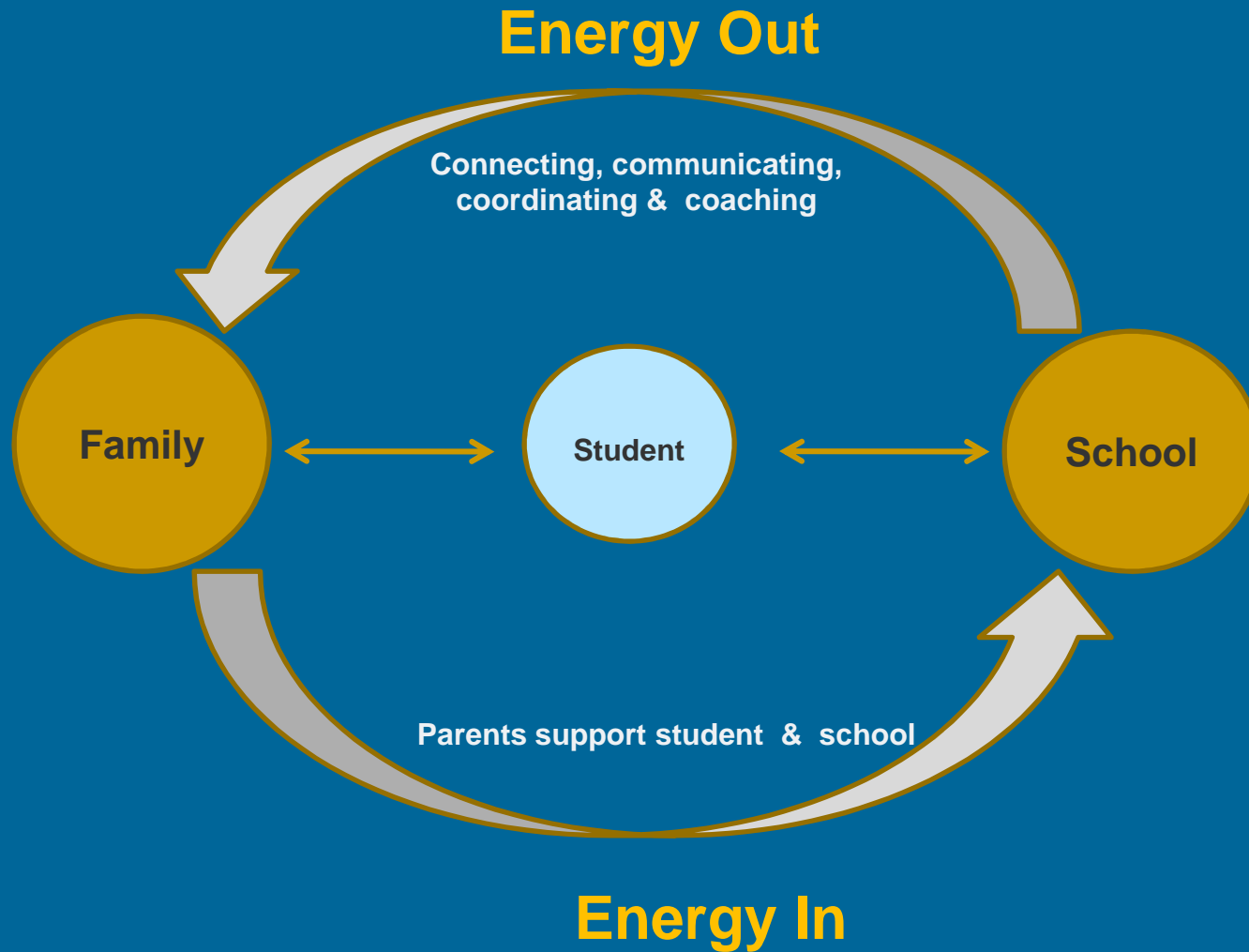
- a) parenting obligations for child's education and social development
- b) participating in learning activities at home to reinforce and enrich what is taught at school
- c) establishing parent school relations through parent-teacher conferences and other forms of ongoing two-way communication about school goals programs, student performance etc.
- d) participating in decision making, governance and advocacy through parent advisory councils, school improvement councils etc.
- e) participating in schools as audience, volunteers, attendees PTA meetings.

Research on Parent Involvement in K-12 Education

- When parents are involved in their children's education, children do much better in schools and schools improve.
- Children with involved parents are often better learners who perform better academically, exhibit positive behavior, attitudes and higher aspirations.
- What the family does to support student effort is more important to student success than the family's income or educational level.

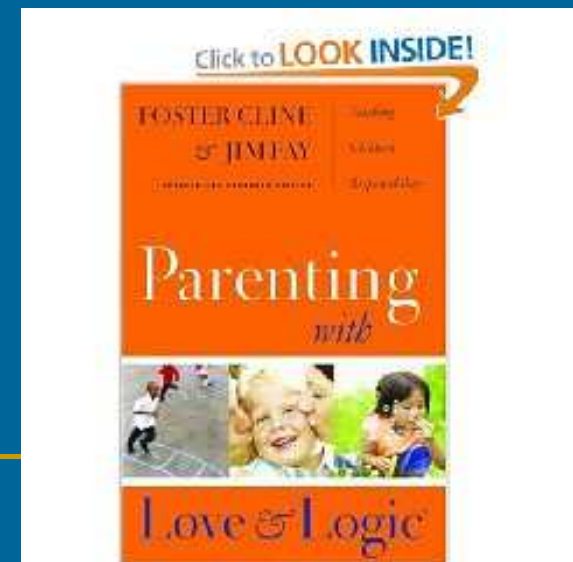
(Coleman et al., 1966; Epstein, 1996; Finn, 1998; Fullan, 1985, 1990; Hawley & Rosenholtz, 1984 Henderson, 1987 Henderson & Berla, 1994; Keith & Keith, 1993; Rich, 1985, 1994, 1996 Stevenson & Baker, 1987; Zellman & Waterman, 1998).

K-12 Education: Self-renewing model of parent involvement



Definition of Helicopter Parents

- **Helicopter parent** is a colloquial, early 21st-century term for a parent who pays extremely close attention to his or her child's or children's experiences and problems, particularly at educational institutions. These parents rush to prevent any harm or failure from befalling them and will not let them learn from their own mistakes, sometimes even contrary to the children's wishes. They are so named because, like **helicopters**, they hover closely overhead, rarely out of reach, whether their children need them or not.
- First termed in the 1990 book *Parenting with Love and Logic* by Foster Cline and Jim Fay



Love and Logic Parenting Styles

- **Consultant** – Always available to give suggestions and offer options. They also know when to keep quiet and let their children make the final decision.
- **Drill sergeant** – Bark out commands, make lots of demands and are prone to telling kids how they should behave and feel. “I don’t care how you feel. I want it done now!”
- **Helicopter** – Hover, protect, and rescue. Take on many of the kid’s responsibilities and make decisions that the children could make for themselves. They are the parents going in and out of the schools front doors each morning carrying coats, lunches, violins...

Evolution of the Term

An extension of the term, "**Black Hawk parents**," has been coined for those who cross the line from a mere excess of zeal to unethical behavior, such as writing their children's college admission essays. (The reference is to the military helicopter of the same name.)



Some college professors and administrators are now referring to "**Lawnmower parents**" to describe mothers and fathers who attempt to smooth out and mow down all obstacles, to the extent that they may even attempt to interfere at their children's workplaces, regarding salaries and promotions, after they have graduated from college and are supposedly living on their own.

Studies Indicate Students Want Parent Involvement

- In 2007, nearly 25% of college freshman said their parents had too little involvement in choosing their college courses and activities. Hispanic students were more likely to indicate this than their white peers.

Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA

- 30% of college bound students said they wanted more help from parents in searching for colleges. That number rose to 40% for those with lower SAT scores and household incomes.

The College Board & The Art and Science Group

Helicopter Parents - Cons

- “As a child gets older, it is a real problem for a parent to work against their child’s independent thought and action, and it is happening more often.”

Ron Goldblatt, Association of Maryland Independent Schools

- “Many young adults entering college have the academic skills they will need to succeed but are somewhat lacking in life skills like self-reliance, sharing, and conflict resolution.”

Linda Walter, Seaton Hall University

Parent Involvement -Pros

- Parent involvement in education increases student achievement.
- Parents of first generation college students are more likely to be less involved and this can negatively impact retention.
- Students are more committed when they experience college as a family affair.



The Auraria Campus

■ Community College of Denver

- 13,406 students (unduplicated headcount)
- 5,443 full-time equivalent enrollment
- 46 percent of CCD students are minority
- Latino students make up more than a quarter of CCD's population and more than a third of those are 19 and under, providing the college with federal recognition as the only Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) in the Denver-metro area.

The Auraria Campus

- **Metropolitan State College of Denver**
 - 22,904 total students enrolled
 - 5726 (25%) Students of Color
 - Average age 26
 - 97% Colorado Residents
 - 60% Full time
 - #1 transfer college in the state (60%) – 2008 class
68% transfers
 - 135M awarded in financial aid 08-09
 - 53 majors and 82 minors, plus IDP
 - Striving to become an Hispanic Serving Institution by 2015

The Auraria Campus

- University of Colorado Denver Downtown campus
 - 12,726
 - 8,188 Undergraduate
 - 46% male, 54% female
 - 4,538 Graduate
 - 43% male, 57% female
 - 28.7% undergraduate ethnic minority
 - 12.5% graduate ethnic minority
 - Awards more degrees than any other institution in Colorado

Parental Involvement Initiatives At Auraria Higher Education Center

- Admissions Marketing – Metro State
- Bilingual Parent Outreach – Metro State
- Open Houses – UCD and Metro State
- Parent Orientation – Metro State
- Family Activities – CCD and UCD (grant funded)



Admissions Marketing – Metro State

■ HSI Initiative

- Marketing to parents of prospective students
- Marketing to parents who may become students themselves.



HSI Parent Postcard

Expandiendo mentes. Impactando futuros.

Ir a la Universidad no tiene que ser difícil. Metro State tiene los recursos para ayudar a su hijo o hija a conseguir el éxito profesional en el mundo real. Nuestro amigoso y capacitado personal está disponible para asistirlo en el proceso de admisión, ayuda financiera, tutorías y mucho más.

Metro State provee la mejor relación costo-valor en Educación Superior en Colorado. Pero nuestros beneficios van más allá del valor de la licenciatura. Nosotros ofrecemos 53 especialidades y 82 sub-especialidades. Además ofrecemos apoyo personalizado para ayudar a su hijo o hija a escoger un programa académico que se ajuste a sus intereses y capacidades, y cause un impacto positivo en su futuro. Metro State tiene un compromiso con la comunidad Latina de Colorado. Y así lo confirman estos hechos, Metro State es la segunda institución de Educación Superior que gradúa más estudiantes Latinos en Colorado, y la publicación Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education clasificó una vez más nuestra institución entre las 100 mejores universidades para estudiantes Latinos en los Estados Unidos.

Nuestros profesores altamente calificados preparan a los estudiantes para carreras de alta demanda tales como:

- Criminología
- Aviación y Ciencia Aeroespacial
- Enfermería, Nutrición... y mucho más!
- Gerencia de Negocios
- Pedagogía

Metro State está ubicado cerca del centro de Denver, donde las compañías y los centros culturales más importantes se encuentran. El campo universitario es seguro y está formado por una comunidad étnica muy diversa.

¡Llame o visite Metro State hoy!

303-556-6723 ■ www.mscd.edu/expandyouroptions



HSI Latina Mom Postcard



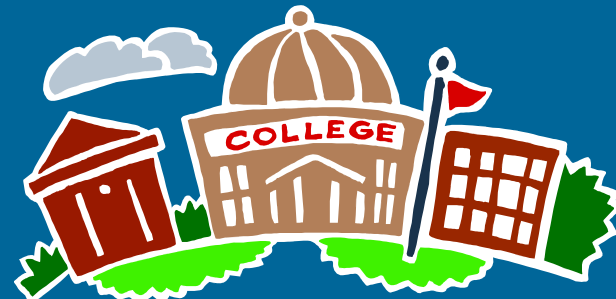
Bilingual Parent Outreach – Metro State

- Latino Parent Involvement
 - Language barriers
 - Do not understand system
 - Feel intimidated
- Latino Parent Night
 - Centaurus High School
 - Small/Individual Groups



Bilingual Parent Outreach – Metro State

- Higher Education Options
 - Types of schools (Public, Private, Community College, 4 yr)
 - Degree differences (AA, BA, MA, Certificates)
- Application Process/Requirements
 - Community Colleges
 - 4 yr schools
- Financial Aid
 - Importance
 - Forms
 - Why tax information?
- Metro State Information

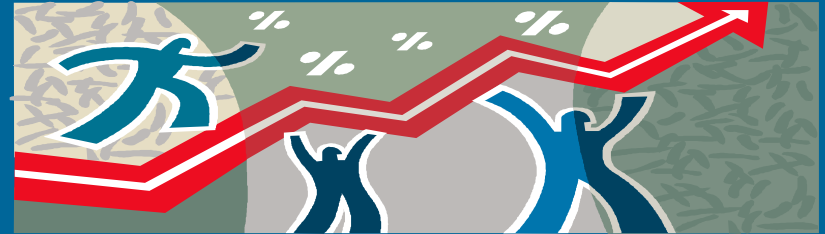


Open Houses – UCD and Metro State



- **Open House** offers an opportunity to explore our vibrant urban campus, meet our faculty and staff, and see how our programs, services and people will help you reach your educational goals.
- Speak with professors about majors and minors.
- Learn about admission, financial aid, scholarship opportunities and a wide range of student services, clubs and activities.
- Bring any previous college transcripts and have your credits evaluated.
- Apply for admission.
- Enjoy a campus tour.

Parent Orientation Metro State



- Piloted a parent/family orientation program after seeing a steady increase in the number of support people students bring to orientation.
 - This is a national trend and NSO staff have attended several workshops and pre-conference seminars on the topic.
 - Researched and found that of 13 peer institutions, were one of two schools who didn't have a parent/family program or office.
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Parent Orientation Topics



- Chose agenda topics based on national research information, and what we thought they would want/need to know.
- Parents and students attended together in general sessions: Overview/Next Steps, Financial Aid, Student Involvement, Housing, Credit Union Denver
- Parents and students attended separately in breakout sessions: Welcome, College Mission, Value of a degree, Health Center, Counseling Center, ACCESS Center, Campus Safety, Academic Success, Tutoring, Student panel, Evaluation and feedback

Parent Orientation Results



- Piloted five parent/family sessions with approximately 125 participants.
 - They were a HUGE success! They all commented on how great it was to get to talk to each other about college related topics, share fears, excitement and realize they weren't alone.
 - It was hard fitting it all in to a couple of hours and we did receive some feedback about that.
 - Director of New Student Orientation developed a proposal to expand orientation to include a family component.
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Beyond Parent Involvement: Family Involvement

Non-traditional/ Re-entry or adult students

Include those who:

- are returning to update professional skills and further career advancement
- may never have attended college or started college and then stopped because of personal, financial, or other reasons.
- may have spent time in the workforce, the military, or in raising a family, and want to go back to fulfill lifelong dreams.
- are retired
- are single parents looking to achieve a better life.

e.g. Paraeducators in career ladder programs to become teachers

Paraeducator Career Ladder Grants CCD, Metro State, UCD

- Since 1999 we have formed partnerships with all three schools to deliver career ladder projects for paraeducators.
- Career Ladder projects help paraeducators become licensed teachers.
- Most projects focused on either special education or linguistically diverse licensure.
- Utilized research based academic, social, and financial supports for participants.

Components of Successful Career Ladder Projects

- Social

cohort groups, family support activities, mentor teachers, school district partners, professional development, carpooling, babysitting, personal counseling

- Financial

Tuition, students fees, books, living stipends, paid student teaching, employment alternatives

- Academic

Basic skills assessment, tutoring, gradual coursework introduction, academic advising, field experiences, disability services, test preparation, on-site classes

Grant Family Activities – UCD and CCD

- Family picnic celebrating first semester completion
- Mini conference
 - Keynote speaker – parent volunteer who became a paraeducator, teacher, and principal
 - Break-out sessions: general college overview, family support, mentoring
 - Provided childcare
- Award ceremony
 - Celebrate accomplishments and milestones
 - Recognize family members for their support
- Field-trip to Ocean Journey aquarium

Questions?



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