



Supporting  
Student Parent Families  
in a Time of Crisis



# Our Mission & History

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.





## TEEN PARENTS



College degrees



Early childhood  
support



## THEIR CHILDREN



Educational Success • Economic Mobility • Thriving Families

# Student Demographics

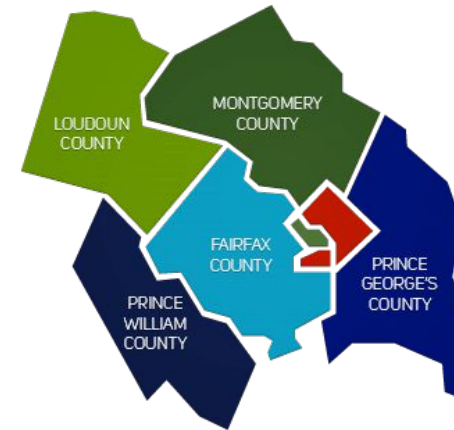
**100**



mothers  
& fathers

**20**

two and four-  
year schools



**100%**

Scholars are in  
DC, MD, and VA



**81%+**

low income



**74%**

first generation  
college students



**51%** Hispanic/Latinx

**34%** Black



Scholars have experienced domestic violence, food insecurity, homelessness, foster care, and more.



## Student parents succeed with support

### Generation Hope's graduation rate:

- ***Exceeds*** the national average for ***all*** college students
- Almost ***double*** the national average for low-income college students
- Almost ***eight times*** the national average for single mothers



92% of Scholars stay in college and in our program, or graduate, year-to-year



**100%**

of Generation Hope's 2018 and 2019 graduates were living above the poverty line within six months of graduation



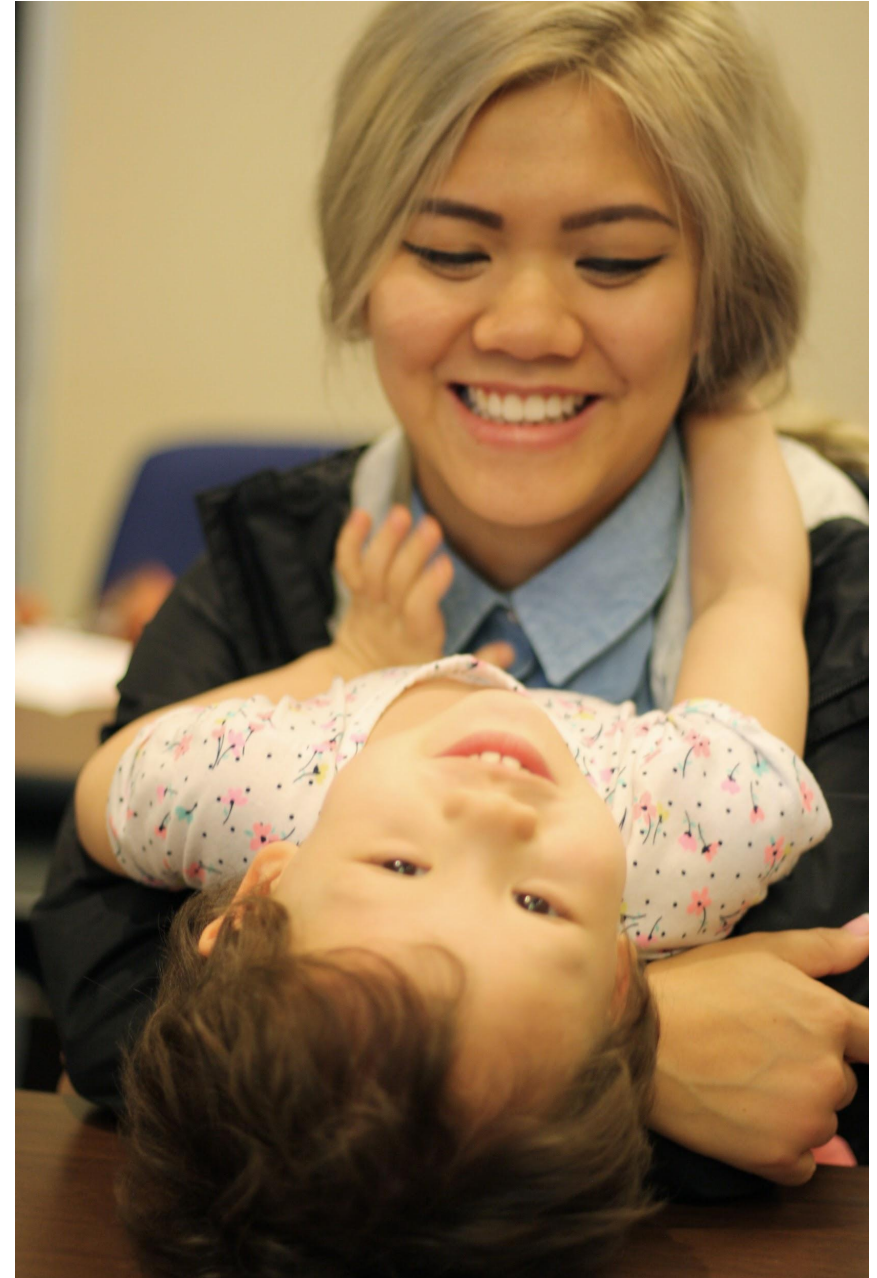
**Over 30%**

of 2018 graduates went directly on to graduate school



# Who Are Student Parents?

- 42% attend community colleges
- More likely to have low incomes
- 51% are students of color
- Just under 60% are first-generation college students
- **Despite the challenges student parents face, they tend to have higher GPAs than their non-parenting peers**



# Student Parent Success Impacts Two Generations & the Economy

- Improves outcomes for student parents' children
- Increases student parents' lifetime potential earnings
- Decreases public assistance spending
- Amounts to billions of additional dollars in taxes





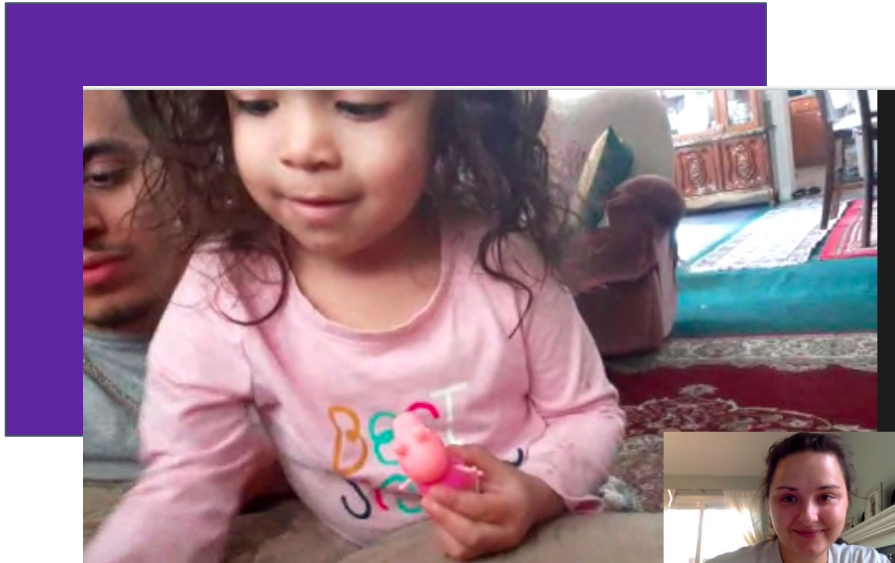
# COVID-19 & Student Parents



- College campus closures
- K-12 and childcare closures
- Unemployment and financial crises
- Needs of family members
- Limited access to food and healthcare
- Domestic violence
- Mental health challenges
- Challenges will extend into next academic year



# Generation Hope's Response



- **For Students:**
  - Maintaining consistency through virtual case management and programming
  - Providing connections to vital community/government resources
  - Emergency grants
- **Beyond our Students:**
  - Amplifying the needs of student parents
  - Providing guidance, resources, and outsourced services to colleges and universities
  - Facebook Live storyhours (#GHBedtimeStories) and other community building



# Student Parent Perspective: Nija Simmons





# COVID-19 Response Checklist for Higher Ed

- **Convene a virtual task force of student parents** to inform your decisions during the pandemic
- **Establish or increase emergency aid**
- **Create as much convenience** as possible
- **Inform professors** to encourage their students to contact them if they are having challenges with childcare or distance learning; set the expectation that professors will work with students to design feasible solutions





# COVID-19 Response Checklist for Higher Ed



- **Ask student-success staff to reach out** to student parents to see how the closure is impacting them
- **Understand that your institution will need to go beyond** the scope of traditional advising during the pandemic to support parenting college students—and all students
- **Provide students with information** on tools and resources like SwiftStudent, that can be helpful with their changing needs right now
- **Build community** among student parents



# National Survey

- **Student parents' higher-ed experiences**
  - Hurdles to degree attainment
  - Gaps in institutional support
  - Recommendations
- **259 respondents, 147+ institutions**
- **Administered during Winter/Spring 2020**



“If colleges would support student parents and say 'we get it,' that would impact everything – grades, attendance, even other teen parents like me believing higher education is possible.”

DARLE, GENERATION HOPE SCHOLAR



## NATIONAL STUDENT PARENT SURVEY RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Uncovering the Student-Parent Experience  
and Its Impact on College Success

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





# National Survey Major Findings

40%



FELT ISOLATED AS A PARENTING STUDENT ON CAMPUS



MORE THAN  
60%

MISSED AT LEAST ONE DAY OF CLASS DUE TO LACK OF CHILDCARE

20%



FELT UNWELCOME ON CAMPUS



75%

WERE UNAWARE THEIR FINANCIAL AID COULD BE INCREASED TO ACCOUNT FOR CHILDCARE COSTS



MORE THAN

1 IN 3

DID NOT SEE FAMILY-FRIENDLY CHARACTERISTICS ON CAMPUS



# Ongoing Recommendations

- **Collect** and **track** the parenting status of students. Few institutions collect data on how many students are parents.
- **Apply** a parenting-student lens to your campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work.
- **Designate** a staff position to champion the needs of parenting students.
- **Prioritize** the creation of family-friendly policies and ensure they are clearly communicated to students.
- **Identify** ways to better include parenting students in campus life.
- **Incorporate** student parent needs into government relations work.



#TheFutureisFamily  
#StudentParentSuccess



GENERATION  
HOPE *Celebrating*  
10 YEARS



@SupportGenHope  
@NicoleLynnLewis



@supportgenerationhope



@SupportGenHope

[supportgenerationhope.org](http://supportgenerationhope.org)