

Affordability and College Attainment in Wisconsin Public Higher Education

Hosted by:

Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study
Sara Goldrick-Rab and Douglas N. Harris, Co-Directors
Wisconsin Center for Education Research

July 7 and 8, 2011

159 Education Building, 1000 Bascom Mall
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Sponsored By:

University of Wisconsin System
Wisconsin Technical College System
Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation
Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, the state of Wisconsin faces significant challenges in its efforts to grow a college-educated workforce. College ambitions are strong and yet for many families rising costs make reaching those goals feel impossible. How are students managing to make ends meet while pursuing college degrees? Who is crossing the finish line—and who is not? How can we help more talented youth reach their educational potential?

Join us for a focused discussion grounded in the latest research on Wisconsin undergraduates. We invite college administrators, faculty, students, and staff to interact with researchers, policymakers, advocates and philanthropists and share perspectives on these important, complex issues.

***Our featured keynote speaker is RICHARD KAHLENBERG, senior fellow at The Century Foundation, and editor of *Rewarding Strivers: Helping Low-Income Students Succeed in College*. Of this important volume, Tony Marx, president of Amherst College, writes, “The terrible ‘secret’ of higher education in America is that too few students from poorer families have access to it. . . . Kahlenberg again gathers the best thinkers on how to challenge this status quo.”

AGENDA*

Thursday, July 7	
1:00 pm	Welcome Sara Goldrick-Rab, Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study
1:15 pm	<i>Affordability and Access: Current Challenges</i>
	<p>“Differences in Higher Education: Investments, Costs, and Outcomes” Timothy Smeeding & Bob Haveman, Institute for Research on Poverty</p> <p>“Emerging Trends in Mass Higher Education” Paul Attewell, CUNY Graduate Center</p>
2:15 pm	<i>Trends in Affordability Across Wisconsin</i>
	<p>“Wisconsin’s Pell Grant Recipients: Heterogeneity and Implications” Robert Kelchen, Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study</p> <p>“Is the University of Wisconsin–Madison Becoming More Elite? A Partial Answer” Barbara Wolfe, John Witte, & Sara Dahill-Brown, La Follette School of Public Affairs</p>
3:15 pm	Break – Coffee in the Atrium
3:30 pm	<i>Initial Reactions and Responses</i>
	<p>Each discussion room has been assigned a leader and a color code that corresponds to the color of the circle on the back of your nametag. Please proceed to that room for your group discussion.</p> <p>Yellow - Room 159: Mary Gulbrandsen, Fund for Wisconsin Scholars</p> <p>Green - Room 198: Vicki Washington, University of Wisconsin System Administration</p> <p>Red - Room 245: Connie Hutchison, Former Director of WI Higher Educational Aids Board</p> <p>Blue - Room 290: Kaja Rebane, Campus Action for Public Education</p>
5:00 pm	<i>Reception on the Terrace</i>

*** All presentations are held in the WI Idea Room (Room 159) except where noted**

Friday, July 8	
7:30 am	Breakfast in the Atrium
8:00 am	<i>The Causal Effects of Financial Aid: Short-Term Impacts of the Fund for Wisconsin Scholars Grant</i>
	<p>“Impacts on Academic Progress Among University Students” Sara Goldrick-Rab, WSLs</p> <p>“Impacts on Time Use Patterns of UW and WTCS Students” Douglas Harris, WSLs</p> <p>“Impacts on Work Behaviors and Equity Effects for UW and WTCS Students” James Benson, WSLs</p>
10:00 am	Break – Coffee in the Atrium
10:30 am	<i>Wisconsin’s College Students: Academic, Financial, and Social Dimensions of the Undergraduate Experience</i>
	<p>Please select one of the three breakout rooms for sessions featuring papers authored by WSLs graduate and postdoctoral students:</p> <p><u>Session 1, Room 159:</u> “How Finances Affect the Educational Ambitions of Two-Year College Students” Katharine Broton</p> <p>“Social Class Consciousness Among Undergraduate Men” Ryan Adserias</p> <p>“Family Support of Latino/a College Students: How and Why Gender Matters” M. Regina Figueiredo-Brown</p> <p><u>Session 2, Room 198:</u> “You’re Supposed to Help Family: Financial Reciprocity and the College Experience.” Julie Minikel-Lacocque</p> <p>“Rejection and Happiness: The Effects of College Choice on Student Integration and Success” Robert Kelchen</p> <p>“Social Integration of Low-Income Minority Students at Predominantly White Institutions”</p>

	<p>Courtney Luedke</p> <p><u>Session 3, Room 245:</u> “Financial Constraints, Opportunity Costs, and Enrollment Trajectories Among University Students” Peter Kinsley</p> <p>“Learning College: Cultural Congruence and College Transitions” Derria Byrd</p> <p>“The Role of Life Events in Shaping College Persistence” Jesus Renteria</p>
12:00 pm	<p>Lunch and Keynote</p> <p>Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation “Rewarding Strivers: Helping Low-Income Students Succeed in College”</p>
1:30 pm	<i>Reactions and Responses to the Research</i>
	<p>Each discussion room has been assigned a leader and a color code that corresponds to the color of the rectangle on the back of your nametag. Please proceed to that room for your group discussion.</p> <p>Pink - Room 159: David Mundel, Independent Consultant</p> <p>Yellow - Room 198: Al Pickney, Milwaukee Area Technical College</p> <p>Orange - Room 245: Beatriz Contreras, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh</p> <p>Green - Room 290: Marjorie Cook, Madison College</p>
2:45 pm	Break – Coffee in the Atrium
3:00 pm	<i>Priorities and Potentials: A Closing Panel Discussion</i>
	<p>Representative Joan Ballweg</p> <p>Richard George, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation</p> <p>Morna Foy, Wisconsin Technical College System</p> <p>Michael Moscicke, United Council of Students</p> <p>Jane Hojan-Clark, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee</p>

	Tom Mortenson, The Pell Institute
4:30 pm	Conference Conclusion