



NASPA | KNOWLEDGE
COMMUNITY

ADULT LEARNERS AND
STUDENTS WITH CHILDREN

**Adult Learner And
Students with Children
KC Newsletter**

Crossroads

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Quarterly Update from the Adult Learner and Students with Children Knowledge Community

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**Susan Warfield
serves at
Director of the
Student Parent
HELP Center at
the University
of Minnesota**



Letter from our Chairperson

Dear ALSC Members,

Over the course of the past four years developing and then serving as founding chair of the Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community, the KC has become a significant part of my life and day to day duties. I feel the time has been more than well spent for so many reasons. I will always be thankful for the ways in which being involved with ALSC and the larger NASPA organization caused me to grow in so many ways and for the many relationships which also grew along the way. The time and effort spent was more than rewarded by the friendships formed and the knowledge gathered about myself, the field and the student population I love so much.

This has been a long journey with more than a few bumps along the way, but with so much laughter, support and relationship building as well. I would like to personally acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the original members of the ALSC KC leadership team, most of whom have been with us from day one, they are: Elise Buggs/Eastern Michigan University, Teresa Bill/University of Hawaii at Manoa, Martha Harper/Austin Peay, Sylvia Scott/University of Arkansas, Melanie Soland/University of Minnesota, James Stewart/DePaul University, Susan Stiers/University of Arkansas, Kristina Testa-Buzzee/Norwalk Community College, Susan Marine, Merrimack College and our undergraduate student secretary, Lauren Robertson/University of Minnesota. Another key part of our success would be the addition of Katy Lee Kemp/University of North Texas, the chair elect and soon to be chair, who stepped up to carry the torch when duty called. As I step down from the chair

position this month, I think this is an excellent time to reflect on all the many accomplishments we achieved together. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- ALSC KC currently has 360 members. This means we have grown at a rate of over 150 new members per year since our official formation 2 years ago.
- We have had a significant presence at the past two NASPA annual conferences, including but not limited to: multiple individual presentations by ALSC leadership team members, multiple programs seeking endorsement, half-day pre-cons, formal receptions and presence at the community fair.
- We have reached every bench mark established for KCs by the NASPA leadership.
- We have consistently fed high quality, scholarly research articles, grant and other funding sources, and media pieces to our members through our very active ALSC KC listserv.
- We have established a well-developed, web and social media presence, and are continuing to grow daily in this area.
- We will be developing a series of ALSC sponsored awards which we plan to roll out by the NASPA annual 2014 in NOLA.
- We have continued to meet regularly and have excellent participation at these meetings.

The list could be far longer, but my time as chair is running down as is my space for this piece.

In addition to our leadership team, there have been many other supporters who have guided ALSC along this journey from infancy to adulthood who should be acknowledged as well. We owe a huge debt to the following champions; Dr.

Greetings ALSK KC members!

While I am sad that I am unable to attend the conference this year and meet so many of you in person, I am happy to say the reason for my absence was born on February 11th and is a bouncing baby girl! I am excited to begin my role as Chair of our growing knowledge community focused on adult learners and students with children. Susan Warfield and the fabulous leadership team have spent countless hours building this group and helping spread the word about our KC. I hope to follow in Susan's footsteps and keep moving our KC in the right direction. Furthermore, I encourage everyone to join our monthly conference calls and help keep the momentum going! This year we hope to highlight more of the excellent programming that is focused on our adult learners and student parents. We know that all of you are helping foster success on your campuses and we would love to share your accomplishments with the NASPA community. My background in academic support services and my current position on a graduate and professional campus

New chair letter

allow me to work with a fabulous adult and student parent population on a daily basis. I am humbled every time I see the dedication and passion that students display when juggling their lives with school. My hope is that we can all continue to collaborate and share knowledge about this very special population. I look forward to working with you; please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any comments, questions, or concerns. Enjoy the conference!

Katy Lee Kemp, M.Ed.
Chair- NASPA Adult Learners and
Students with Children Knowledge
Community
Director- Center for Academic
Performance UNT Health Science Center
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Vanessa Johnson, who initiated this journey and helped bring ALSC from idea to reality, Evette Castillo Clark who was the guiding force behind our initial proposal during her tenure as National Director of Knowledge Communities, Frank Ross for his current leadership in that role, and the NASPA staff member who has had the greatest number of emails, inquiries, phone calls and general contact with me over the years, James Stascavage. The KC would not be what it is today, without their hard work, hand holding and shared vision.

To Katy Lee Kemp, who now follows me in this role, I have to say that we are so lucky to have you. It has been a pleasure serving with you this past year and I know that you will guide ALSC on through even bigger milestones. The first "letter from chair" I prepared for our very first newsletter over two years ago, contained many analogies between parenting a new KC and parenting a

child, which is only appropriate given our content area. In keeping with that theme, I have to say that I feel confident in transferring parenthood of this much loved, and now quite rambunctious, two year old, over to Katy Lee. I know that she will effectively co-parent with the ALSC leadership team and guide us into our next stage of development.

-Susan Warfield, Chair

THANK YOU!

A Tremendous THANKS to Susan Warfield for her time, dedication, energy and humor as our first Knowledge Community Chair!



Pictures from University of North Texas

Off Campus Eagle Extravaganza

Every year, Student Activities hosts a welcome back event for commuter students. The purpose of this event is to unite commuter students in the Denton and surrounding area. The event will display a variety of Denton vendors as well as UNT departments in order to provide commuter students with the opportunity to learn about different services available to them. The event allow commuter students to connect with like-minded individuals and hopefully build future relationships.



Submitted by Courtney Newsome,
Coordinator for Off—Campus
Student Services, University of
North Texas



Pictures from University of North Texas

Family Fun Night

The purpose of this event is to highlight non-traditional students, expose them to available on-campus resources, and connect them with other non-traditional students on campus. The event is full of games and prizes to create a relaxing atmosphere for students and their children to connect and build relationships. This event is open to faculty and staff members who would like to bring their children as well.

Student Success and Program Profiles at Southern Illinois University— Carbondale

**Deborah Barnett is the
Coordinator of Non-
Traditional Student Services
at Southern Illinois
University Carbondale**

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SIU
Southern
Illinois
University
CARBONDALE

Student success is a priority in higher education and, for students balancing college and parenthood, achieving success and earning a college degree can be a challenge. A 2013 report¹ by the Institute for Women's Policy Research and Student Success Parent Initiative cited seven strategies higher education institutions should consider to increase student parent success: (1) affordable housing; (2) inclusive campus; (3) academic services; (4) campus child care services; (5) financial aid and education; (6) mentoring, counseling, and peer support; and (7) links to economic, community, and health services. In addition to campus-wide student success initiatives, Southern Illinois University (SIU) Carbondale provides programs specific to students with children and other 'non-traditional' student populations. SIU offers support through family-friendly on-campus housing options, on-campus child care, family study room, and programming to create an inclusive environment and build community among student parents. Among these programs are: SIU Family Carnival and Friday Fun at the Rec: Parents Night Out.

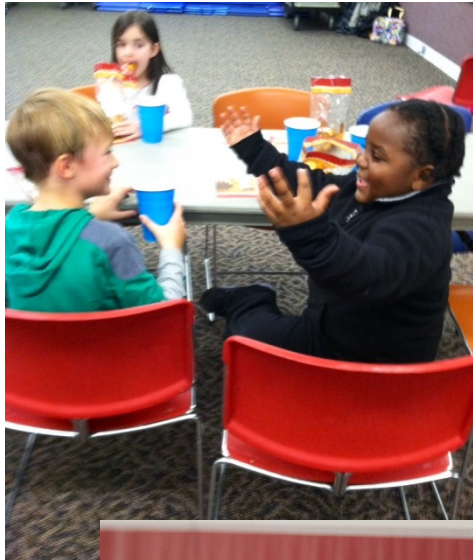
The *SIU Family Carnival*, held at the start of each fall and spring semester, is an afternoon of family fun designed to connect new and returning students with campus, community, and child care resources! Nearly 30 resource table participants provide information about available services along with a children's activity related to the event's theme. The carnival, organized by a committed group of 10-12 campus staff and community members, also provides volunteer opportunities for student groups to staff check-in, food

service, and other areas as needed.

Friday Fun at the Rec: Parents Night Out, offered once a month, provides student parents with a couple of hours to study, take a 'wellness' break, or just have adult conversation! A minimal fee of \$2 per child/max. \$5 per family benefits a *Save the Day* emergency fund for students in the Saluki Single Parent Program. The *Friday Fun* program includes age appropriate children's games and activities along with a healthy snack. In addition to a much needed break, student parents receive a 'positive parenting' tip sheet featuring strategies to help reduce stress related to balancing school and family. *Friday Fun* is a collaborative effort among SIU's Non-Traditional Student Services, Student Support Services, and Student Recreation Center. Like the Family Carnival, the program also provides student volunteer opportunities. Most recently, the Student Dental Hygiene organization provided children's activities specific to Dental Hygiene month.

These two programs are part of a larger support system to help student parents successfully reach their educational goals which, in turn, benefit the entire family. Ongoing assessment of programs allows for continual improvement as programs evolve to fit student needs. Feedback from students indicate that they not only appreciate these programs but utilize them to build relationships and to strengthen their network of support.

<http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/prepping-colleges-for-parents-strategies-for->



Photos from Southern Illinois University
Carbondale's Family Fun Event

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<https://twitter.com/NASPAALSKC>



Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community

ALSC KC Hosted or Endorsed Programs

Sunday, March 16, 2014 Venue/Room

Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Program Title: "Advocating as a Tool for Transforming the Student Experience for Adult Learners and Students with Children"
Coordinating Presenter: Kristina Testa-Buzzee

349-Convention Center

Monday, March 17 Venue/Room

Time: 1:15-2:05 p.m.

Program Title: "Get a Seat on the Train: Reimagining the Commuter Experience"
Coordinating Presenter: Jessica Edonick

320-Convention Center

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 Venue/Room

Time: 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Program Title: "Building Communities of Support with Families in Higher Education"
Coordinating Presenter: Jennifer Quick

324-Convention Center

Time: 2:20-3:10 p.m.

Program Title: "Transforming Campus Culture: Creating Family and Child Accessible Institutions"
Coordinating Presenter: Susan Warfield

323-Convention Center

Content Related Programs Which Did Not Seek ALSC KC Endorsement

Monday, March 17 Venue/Room

Time: 2:35-3:25 p.m.

Program Title: "Pregnancy and College Aspirations: Demographics of (In) consequences?"
Coordinating Presenter: Rosa Cintron

337-Convention Center

Time: 3:40-4:30 p.m.

Program Title: "SHEROs in the Classroom: Narratives of Mothers Pursuing PhDs in Education"
Coordinating Presenter: Diana Sims-Harris

Holiday Ballroom-5-Hilton

Tuesday, March 17 Venue/Room

Time: 3:25-4:15 p.m.

Program Title: "Adult Learners: Who They Are, Why They Matter, and What They Need to Succeed"
Coordinating Presenter: Marguerite Culp

314-Convention Center

Events

Tuesday, March 18, 2014

Title: Adult Learners and Students with Children Reception and Annual Open Meeting

Location: Carroll-B-Hilton

Time: 4 PM to 6:30 PM

Everyone interested in learning more about ALSC KC is welcome to join us, meet our leadership team and share some great food!

Monday March 17, 2014

**KC Community Fair
Please stop by the ALSC KC table.**

Location: Hilton- Key Ballroom (RMs 7 through 12)

Time: 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM