



**NASPA**

Adult Learners and  
Students with  
Children KC

April 25, 2016

# Crossroads

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

**Quarterly Update**

Volume 4, Issue 3  
Spring 2016



Pre-Con Crowd Sunday March 13

## Success Redefined

**A KC Sponsored Pre-Conference for Understanding the  
Driving Forces Behind Successful Adult Learners**

### Inside...

<b>A Letter from our Chair</b>	<b>Our KC to institute Open Forum Quarterly Meetings</b>	<b>Our 2016 Naspas Pre-Con a Smashing Success</b>	<b>Terms of Identity</b>	<b>Our KC's first National Award Winners</b>	<b>Features Program Success from Utah Valley</b>	<b>Thanks to Former KC Chair, Katy Kemp!</b>
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James Stewart is Assistant Director of The Adult, Veteran and Commuter Student Services at DePaul University, Chicago IL.

## Letter from the Chair

Greetings NASPA Adult Learner and Students with Children Knowledge Community. I am humbled, honored, excited, and nervous to assist in guiding our young and fruitful Knowledge Community over the next two years.

For a bit of backstory on me, I am a native of Arkansas where I completed a bachelor degree in Economics and Business Administration at Lyon College and a Masters in Higher Education Leadership from the University of Arkansas. I've worked full time in Student Affairs almost a decade having positions in student activities, housing, commuter students, and now working with adult and commuter students at DePaul University in Chicago.

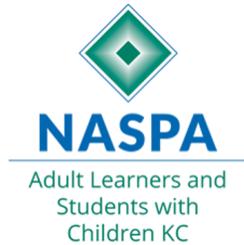
In my previous role at University of Illinois at Chicago with Commuters and now at DePaul for the last three and half years, I have worked more and more with adult students throughout my career. In addition, both of my parents attended community colleges during my childhood as non-traditional learners. As most of you reading this likely know, *their stories, the resilience they bring to campus, and their diverse experiences make the entire enterprise of higher education better.*

**Our Knowledge Community's job is to lead the creation of knowledge and resources in**

**how student affairs practitioner's best work with these growing populations. Fresh off the national annual conference, we have done so much in this arena, but the work is also never done.**

In this newsletter you will see one small but hopefully meaningful change to our monthly meeting structure to better involve more of you members throughout the year. In addition, an important dialogue on the terms we use for our populations. You can be inspired by our first award winning programs given at our recent conference and read our featured program.

Finally, and you will see a more detailed letter sent to her institution is included in this newsletter, **I want to thank our outgoing chair. Katy Lee Kemp** was the second ever chair of our young Knowledge Community. She brought so much energy, organization, technology skills, and spirit, her imprint will last for years to come. In addition, she has been the most helpful of behind the scenes assistance to me in taking on this role. For all her help thus far, and undoubtedly the help still to be asked, the most sincere of thanks! **We are better because of you.**



## Our KC to introduce New Meeting Style

A funny thing happened at our annual leadership meeting in Indianapolis. Instead of the usual bemoaning of members and "where are they when we need them?" talk, we discoursed about the love we had for our passive members, and we began speculating on reasons people join the ALSC KC.

We believe for the most part, they click on the membership because they work with Adult Learners and Students with Children, not as a direct job title, but because it is a burgeoning population all over the country. Student Affairs professionals in dining, residence life, advising, leadership, counseling, and programming roles find themselves supporting more and more adult learners, of which a majority have children.

So, hats off to our colleagues who joined this KC not because it's their job, but because all students matter to them. For those members, our KC proudly introduces quarterly meetings, in which we can share best practices and understanding of the population. These will be non-business meetings with no calls to volunteer, just simple, facilitated discussions to improve your work with adult learners! Mark your calendars and join us, it's a date for lunch! **All meetings are First Fridays 1:00pm Eastern, Noon Central and last 1-1.5 hours.**

May 6th	November 4th
August 5th	February 3rd

**At Meeting time call 712-432-1212 Follow the prompts Your Meeting ID is 520-858-503**

## 2016 NASPA Pre-Conference

### Students with Children: Success Re-defined

This year's NASPA pre-conference sponsored by the ALSC KC was a feel good presentation that led to rich discussion about student parents who made it. What are the tools, personal attributes, psycho-social make-up of these students who went from applicant to alumni? The presentation did not limit the long view to those who do it quickly or without further breaks in their learning, but rather students who had the perseverance to stick with it, or come back until the job was done. As we suspected, their children watching them was a driving force to degree completion. Schools that capitalize on that and support rather than hide student parents, are leading the way to degree persistence for adult learners. Presented by members of our KC Leadership Team who have collectively over 50 years of experience working with this population, The program consisted of short films of students identifying for themselves the key to their success!

#### Presented by

James Stewart, DePaul Univ.  
Susan Stiers, University of Arkansas  
Susan Warfield, University of Minnesota  
Katy Lee Kemp, Univ. of North Texas HSC  
Marcy Glassford, Utah Valley University

One of the best features of the program was the diversity of students from Kelly a traditional student at University of Minnesota who got pregnant in her sophomore year to Adonica a native Hawaiian who found success after divorce at Utah Valley University

Linked here are just two of the compelling videos that we hope will lead all college personnel to be inspired and embrace the needs of nontraditional learners.



**Kelly's Story: Perseverance**

<https://youtu.be/QVd6QWtKaY>



**Adonica's Story: Resilience and Giving Back**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrPqOc3K6qM>

## Terms of Identity

Confucius called it **Zhengming**— We must “rectify names” or “correct terms” other wise “speech will not follow” - Analects 13.3— So what do we mean when we say student parents? **Can nontraditional be a noun?** What about the new term **post-traditional**? Does that adequately capture a population? I found myself humored to be sitting next to two women in a session at the Annual NASPA Conference titled *Student Parents Programs at Four-Year Institutions: Program Models and Student Outcomes*.

“Oh,” they said as I introduced myself and asked what brought them to the program,  
“We thought this was about parents of students?!”  
“Stay,” I said, “you might find that you work with students, who are parents,  
more than you think.”

Professionals, who have worked with nontraditional students (a universally accepted term for students... who are not traditional) have used the phrase “student parents” for several decades, but along came the millennial generation and their highly involved wingers. Beginning with Family Weekends, just about every four year institution now has an outreach program for the lonely parents of a new 18 yr. old resident student. Those of us who work with students who are parents, recognize that in order for speech to be clear, we will have to hand the name over to our colleagues in First Year Student services and **forge onward in the slog to identify a population that doesn't want to be “non” and definitely includes those who are not “post!”** Are they simply off-campus students? “Commuter” never captures it, and neither does “adult learner” when it comes to our 18 yr. old parents (who are students...) **how would you “rectify” a name?**

Confucius, ., & In Waley, A. (1938). *The Analects of Confucius*. New York: Random House.

**2016**  
**Outstanding**  
**Undergraduate**  
**Student Parent**  
**Program**

## Student Parent HELP Center

### University of Minnesota

The SPHC is one of the longest standing, campus based, student parent programs in the United States and has consistently served a larger number of undergraduates with children than any other program we have found. Typically serving between 200 and 300 students, the SPHC is a non-residential, campus based, broad spectrum family and academic support program, serving both mothers and fathers.

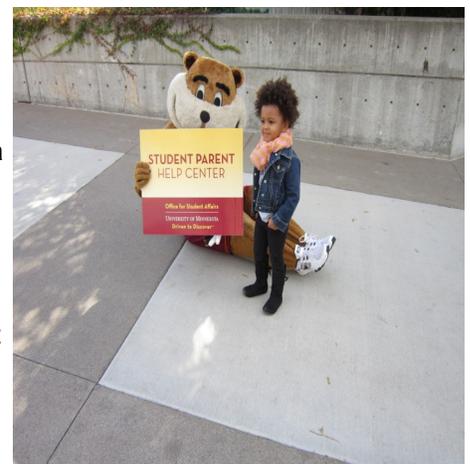
The SPHC has historically served fathers, a unique facet of our program, as many student parent programs have traditionally served mothers only, or are single mother specific. Though single mothers are typically the largest demographic group served by the SPHC, the dynamic of serving both mothers and fathers, regardless of marital status, contributes a great deal to the student experience of those served by the program. The SPHC generously defines the term "parent" to include student's raising siblings and other relatives, which has proven invaluable for traditionally aged students who have taken on a parenting role unexpectedly. All students registered with and receiving services from the SPHC are low income and financial aid eligible, though those students who become unexpectedly pregnant while still dependent on their parents and not financial aid eligible are never turned away.



**The SPHC offers a wide range of academically and family based supports.** Both full time staff members are licensed social workers. Graduate social work and related interns are utilized to expand service delivery. This model allows for the broadest spectrum of referrals and resources, reaching far beyond the boundaries of university supports and campus programming. Staff members are well versed on welfare assistance program requirements and policies, community based assistance programs, campus and community based housing and child care options.

Though the U of M-TC has two family housing units on or adjoining campus and four childcare centers, many student parents are entering as non-traditionally aged, transfer, commuter students already engaged with external metro area communities.

Physical plant facilities include a centrally located suite of staff offices, student lounge and study area, and computer lab. The program is strategically located in the most service dense and student traffic heavy segment of campus, the East Bank. Housed next to the primary financial aid, registrar and student account assistance office and within a building of other supportive service programs, **the SPHC is ideally located for both student convenience and visibility.**



**Congratulations to the 2016 Outstanding Student Parent Program!**

# Off-Campus Connections University of Arkansas

Off Campus Connections at the University of Arkansas assists adult learners by providing personal support, helpful resources, and recognition. Since non-traditional/adult learners are a very important subpopulation representing almost 20% of the overall undergraduate population at the University of Arkansas, **it is imperative that each effort be both cost-effective and impactful.** In addition, Off Campus Connections strives to make each endeavor as unique as the students they are designed to help. Meeting the needs of adult learners required identifying the students and their most prevalent needs, then creatively identifying ways to better meet those needs through collaboration, recognition and inclusion programs, and creating awareness.

**2016  
Outstanding  
Undergraduate  
Adult Learner  
Program**

During the past decade Off Campus Connections has:

- Determined the needs of adult learners through surveys, tracked student inquiries, and focus groups
- Identified the most prevalent of those needs: financial aid/scholarships,
- personal support, and inclusion/recognition or a *sense of mattering* (Schlossberg, 1989, p. 5)
- Addressed the most prevalent needs identified by finding meaningful ways to acknowledge adult learners through collaboration and partnerships.
- Encouraged student success with distinctive recognition opportunities

To see more of what Off Campus Connections does at University of Arkansas visit <http://occ.uark.edu/>

**University of Arkansas  
Adult Learner  
Guide**

**Off Campus Connections  
occ.uark.edu  
ARKU 632  
575-7351**



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**Congratulations to the 2016  
Outstanding Undergraduate Adult Learner Program!**

# Single Mother of Five Overcomes Obstacles on the Way to Her Degree



Her name is **Chi Lai Toby Khung**, but she is called Toby. She is also called a supporter and lover of higher education. She is just one semester short of graduation from Utah Valley University and has overcome numerous obstacles to attain that goal. *A single mother of five*, now in her 50s, Khung is not the traditional student by any means. A native Chinese speaker, she has struggled to learn English. She grew up in Hong Kong, one of eight children who grew up in a 300-square-foot dwelling, raised by a traditional Chinese father who did not believe in higher education for women....

Read the article in full at <http://tinyurl.com/jjmlsa6>

*Women like Khung, who are attending UVU, are encouraged to take advantage of the Women's Success Center. The center offers women the support and resources they need to complete their degree and gain the confidence, opportunity and knowledge that come with a diploma. Utah Valley University is dedicated to providing higher education opportunities to all who seek them, especially to women. For more information visit [uvu.edu/wsc](http://uvu.edu/wsc).*



## A Letter of Gratitude for our Former Chair

April 5, 2016

Dear Dr. Moorman,

This letter is submitted in recognition of the outstanding work and commitment of outgoing NASPA Adult Learners and Students with Children (ALSC) Knowledge Community Chair, Katy Lee Kemp. Ms. Kemp served a two year tenure as chair of the ALSC KC, a position she was recommended for by Thomas Moorman of North Texas Health Sciences Center, who was our KC regional representative at the time.

We cannot thank you, Dr. Moorman nor your institution enough for allowing Katy to serve in this capacity. We know that such service requires sacrifices on the part of both the employee elected into such an office and their home institution as well.

During the two years that Katy Lee Kemp has served as ALSC KC chair we have seen significant growth in both membership and in programming offered by the KC. Accomplishments associated with Katy's tenure as chair include but are not limited to: the completion of our KC's first webinar, the initiation of our first KC awards (Outstanding Undergraduate Adult Learner Program and Outstanding Undergraduate Student Parent Program), significant advancement in technological supports, continued expansion of our membership and broader participation in monthly meetings.

In addition to these concrete benchmarks there are more intrinsic aspects of any individual's leadership style that are harder to quantify or put into words. Katy has approached all aspects of her KC chair duties with enthusiasm, a willingness to collaborate and an energy that is truly engaging and inspiring to our entire leadership team. She was specifically acknowledged by the NASPA National KC director at our recent conference reception in Indianapolis for her hard work and commitment to NASPA and the KC.

Additionally, Katy Lee has accomplished all of this with an openness and sense of fun, characteristics that certainly influenced our continued expansion in membership and participation.

We thank Katy Lee for her service and thank you for sharing her outstanding leadership abilities with our Knowledge Community.

Sincerely,

The Leadership Team of the Adult Learner and Students with Children NASPA Knowledge Community

*Deborah Bennett* *Teresa Biele* *Michael J. Cunningham*  
*Susan Stors* *Aileen Washfield* *Melanie Johnson*  
*Sylvia Scott* *M. A. ...*

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