

FACT SHEET

Addressing Non-Traditional College Student Population Needs through the Child Development Workforce Initiative

Non-traditional college students stand to benefit from programs that understand their life experiences and the particular challenges they face, including work and family responsibilities and lower levels of academic preparation. The Child Development Workforce Initiative (CDWFI) fills a critical need for non-traditional students who might otherwise find it difficult to pursue educational or professional qualifications.

The CDWFI program is experienced serving non-traditional students.

92% of members served in FY 2014-15 **were non-traditional students.**

The CDWFI program offers services at weekend and evening times accessible to non-traditional students, including workshops and counseling.

26 services, on average, were offered at **weekend and evening times** by each CDWFI project in FY 2014-15

The CDWFI program model builds in proactive intervention, while also giving partnered colleges flexibility to accommodate their local student populations and avoid adding burdensome demands on students' time.

1 to 18 check-ins were **required per year** with CDWFI advisors, counselors, mentors and/or other staff by each CDWFI project, though staff often met more frequently with students as needed

CDWFI college participants overwhelmingly reported that the program provided a sense of community in survey results from FY 2014-15.

There is a **supportive community** in CDWFI **97%**

CDWFI students have **similar goals and priorities as me** **94%**

I see myself as **part of the CDWFI community** **94%**

"Building a sense of community is something we talk about for children and their families. We often forget about building community for students and aspiring teachers. CDWFI provides that community and I am so grateful."

– CDWFI 4-year University Participant

"It has allowed me the opportunity to reach out to other like[-]minded people that I would have otherwise overlooked. Being able to be a part of something bigger [than] myself is inspiring me to continue my efforts towards my goals."

– CDWFI Community College Participant

References

Karp, M. M. (2011). *Toward a new understanding of non-academic student support: Four mechanisms encouraging positive student outcomes in the community college* (CCRC Working Paper No. 28). New York: Columbia University, Teachers College, Community College Research Center.

U.S. Department of Education National Center for Education Statistics. (2015). *Demographic and enrollment characteristics of nontraditional undergraduates: 2011-12, NCES 2015-025*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Retrieved online: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2015025>

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