Addressing Harsh Weather and Chilly Climate:

Working to close the opportunity gap for lower income students on college campuses

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Today’s Agenda

• Why this is important and what are the trends?
• Addressing Harsh Weather
• Addressing Chilly Climate
Today’s Goals:

• Understand concepts and statistics
• Discuss the difference between the language of achievement gap and opportunity gap
• Learn about strategies from institutions that work to address the opportunity gap for lower income students
• Start to understand what systemic issues are perpetuated on college campuses that work to create a chilly climate
Why this is important…

• A Healthy Economy:
  ▪ “The share of jobs that require postsecondary education has doubled over the last 40 years” (Increasing College Opportunity, 2014).

• Economic Inequality:
  ▪ “While half of all people from high-income families have a bachelor’s degree by age 25, just 1 in 10 people from low-income families do.” (Increasing College Opportunity, 2014).

• Retention:
  ▪ “Nearly half (43 percent) of low-income, first-generation students had left college without earning their degrees. Among those who left, nearly two-thirds (60 percent) did so after the first year” (Engle J. & Tinto, V., 2008).
“But Financial Aid Has Increased?”

• “Since the early 1980’s college tuition and fees have increased at four times the rate of inflation”

• Pell Grant has been on a decline

• “Every Year, lower income families must pay or borrow 75% of their families income for one of their children to attend a college or university”
  ▪ Compared to middle class families at 27% and high income families at 14%.

(Pendakur, 2016)
Opportunity Gap vs. Achievement Gap

“Injustice is telling them education is the key while you continue to change the locks”

-Donovan Livingston 2016
Intersectionality is important
They Can Succeed!
Addressing Harsh Weather

• **Pre-Orientation Week**
  - Mentor to Success
  - Laying a Foundation
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• Building a Community
  ▪ Social Events
  ▪ Scholar Lounge
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• **Success Coaching**
  - One on One
  - Individualized
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• Resources on Campus
  - Housing
  - Food
  - Emergency Fund
Addressing Chilly Climate

• Remember Opportunity Gap Conversation
• Need to be Advocates
  ▪ Let us Practice...
Questions:

• What is the situation? How does this situation possibly perpetuate a chilly climate for lower income students on campus?

• What strategies could reconcile the situation to make a more inclusive environment for students on campus?

• What information/support do you need? Where/how could you find it?
References

  Washington, DC: Author.
