

# Student Parent Survey

Fall 2020

## Executive Summary

The Student Parent Survey was developed by an existing survey from the Ascend ASPEN Institute and adapted for BHCC in coordination with the Holistic Student Support Redesign Team, BHCC Grants, Institutional Research, Enrollment Management, Office of Academic & Student Affairs, and President Pam Eddinger. Please note, the survey was created before the COVID-19 outbreak. The survey was sent to all BHCC students enrolled in the Fall 2020 semester. Students in the DUAL enrollment or Early College programs were excluded from the survey. Students who self-declared they were not parents were directed out of the survey. The survey was open for five weeks between December 9th, 2020 and January 15th, 2021. Ten student respondents were selected at random to win the survey incentives of \$50 Amazon gift cards. Executive

**Summary:** 715 student parents answered the survey. 80% of respondents were female and 19% male. 26% of respondents were Hispanic/Latino, 24% Black or African American and 15% were white. 41% of respondents were between the ages of 26-35, 72% of students were Part-Time, 69% received a Pell grant and 73% were first generation college students.

- 48% of students responding considered themselves a single parent and 51% said they were not.
- 40% of students had children 2-5 years old and 64% of students had children of school age (6-18)
- 64% of students said they have taken off 1 or more semesters from college since becoming a parent/guardian
- Time Management, family commitments and financial challenges were the top three challenges for student parents.
- When asked about their biggest challenge, most students noted the challenge of balancing priorities between work, school and family. Others noted challenges with finances.
- While most students mentioned their significant other or close family members as their biggest support, 46 students said professors are their biggest support and 34 students mentioned services from BHCC (like The Dish and Single Stop).
- 75% of student parents said they would be likely to use small, emergency financial grants if they were offered to them.
- 60% said they would utilize an office or center dedicated to the needs of student parents.
- 47% said they would utilize referrals to needed services
- 65% of student parents said they would like more classes offered on nights and weekends, 52% said they would likely use child-friendly study spaces.
- 53% said they would like formal or informal counseling or coaching specifically for parenting students.
- 81% of students said they would like financial assistance for childcare.
- 63% of student parents said they were currently feeling quite a bit or a huge amount of stress.
- In open-ended questions, students suggested free childcare on campus most often, many students also asked for financial assistance or stipends for child care. Many students suggested flexible policies from professors for student parents, including more time for assignments, leniency for missed classes and flexible opportunities for test taking.
- Many students mentioned the benefits of remote learning and the way it saves them time, which makes childcare and finding time to do homework easier. Many student parents discussed doing the majority of their school work late at night and would like access to off-hour tutoring or even 24 hour study spaces on campus