

# CHEBNA 2020 Summit: Advancing Student Success

## Lessons and Strategies to Lift and Sustain Basic Needs as an Institutional Priority

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# How did we get here?

- Since 2000 college costs have risen while family incomes have remained flat or declined. (Broton, Weaver, and Mai, 2018)
- The “Great Recession” of 2008 exacerbated conditions of hardship, especially for those families who were already on the financial brink. At this point we see basic needs insecurity grow. (Watson, Malan, Glik, Martinez, 2017)



# Structural Inequity

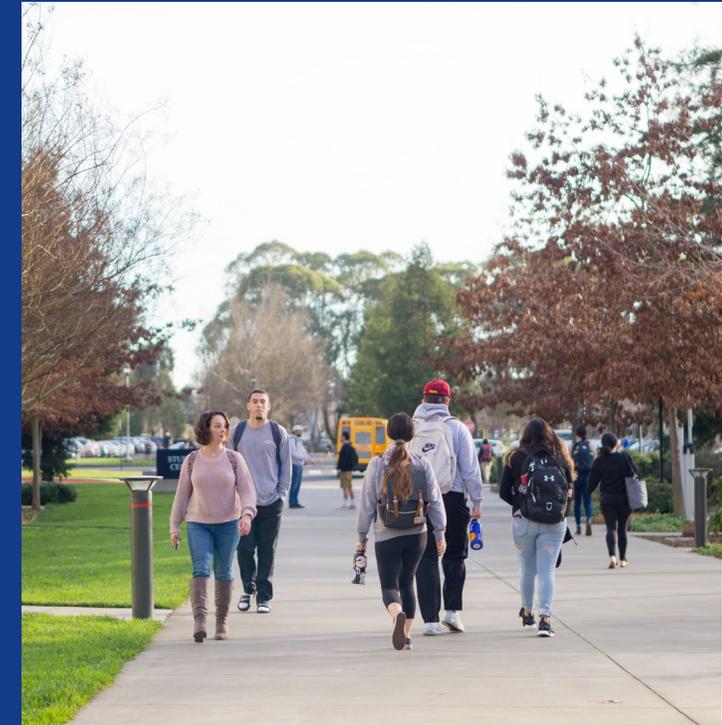
- Students do not come to college on an equal social/economic/institutional ground. (Camelo and Elliott 2019)
- Cost of college has increased
- Only 14% of students from lowest SES quartile complete a bachelor's or higher degree within 8 years of high school graduation. (U.S. Department of Education, 2015)
- FAFSA asks very narrow questions about homelessness. (Broton and Goldrick-Rab 2017)



***“I have the audacity to believe that people everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for the minds and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits.”  
Martin Luther King, Jr.***

# Effects of Basic Needs Insecurity (BNI)

- African-American, Latinx, Pell eligible, & first-generation students are most susceptible for food insecurity at UC and CSU, and first-generation students are also often low-income.
  - More than 1 in 10 CSU students (11%) and 1 in 20 UC students (5%) reported experiencing homelessness within a 12-month period. (Amy Rose 2018)
  - 40.8% of Sonoma State students reported food insecurity, of those 19.9% experienced low food security and 20.9% very low food security. Many had no idea about CalFresh. (SSU Campus Basic Needs Report)
  - Overall, 10.4% of Sonoma State students reported being homeless one or more times in the last 12 months. (SSU Campus Basic Needs Report)



# Effects of Basic Needs Insecurity (BNI) cont.

## Institutional Factors

- Meal plans and campus housing may be too expensive and inflexible
- Food on campus in general may be too expensive or nutritionally deficient
- Food and financial literacy skills may not be encouraged by institution
- Culture of silence around BNI
- Food from meal halls is discarded rather than offered to students who might be hungry

## Mitigating Factors

- Strong connections with faculty, who, on an individual level, often offer guidance and support
- Strong social network and ability to prepare food, often with friends, at reduced (and perhaps shared) cost
- Campus food pantries
- Financial Aid that meets the full cost of attendance (including housing, transportation, etc.) can create a strong foundation for student success

*“The war against hunger is truly mankind’s war of liberation.” John F. Kennedy*



# Sustained Heavy Lifting, Intervention, and Reflection

- Work with students who are passionate, dedicated, and motivated
- Linking through institutional authority
- Need a multi-tiered, diversely directional plan and campaign
  - UC/CSU Basic Needs Framework
- Political advocacy within and outside the institution
  - AB801 requires CSU (and encourages UC) to establish a liaison to help homeless students apply for financial aid and navigate other system resources



***“Poverty is not an accident. Like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.” – Nelson Mandela***

# Make BNI an Institutional Priority

- Cabinet/Senior leadership knowledge/education of facts, connect to mission and moral obligation
- Dedicated staff member to work on basic needs issues
- Student support is structurally embedded
- Policy, programs, practice review
- Sustained engagement; blueprint; strategic plans

## Remember:

- Disrupt institutional status quo
- Our responsibility to ensure both access and success for our students is moral and political
- Team work makes the dream work
- Basic needs is at the center of our responsibility
- Education as a means to social mobility

