

SERU/UCUES Research Symposium

A New Generation of University Students: Understanding the Student Experience and Seeking Opportunities to Translate Analysis into Practice

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ABSTRACT

The Relationship Between Parental Involvement and College Students' Personal, Academic, and Social Development

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While scholarship on parent involvement in primary and secondary education has advanced in the past decade, little is known about the ways in which parents and other family members are involved in postsecondary education. The purpose of this research study is to assess the extent to which parental involvement relates to students' personal, academic, and social development in college. Further, this research disaggregates students into sub-groups (by ethnicity, social class, gender, year in school, parental education, etc.) for the purposes of determining the differential impact of parental involvement on students via multiple regression. This analytical approach is critical as levels of parental involvement that may be considered "excessive" for some students could for other students represent an important source of academic and social support. Data were drawn from 10,760 students who completed the 2006 University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey's (UCUES) Core Items and Student Development Module. This study has implications for campus student services and parent programs, as well as for student development theories which have yet to incorporate the changing role that parents play in the college experience.