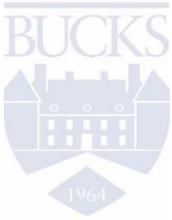


“Access without support
is not opportunity.” - *Dr. Vincent Tinto*

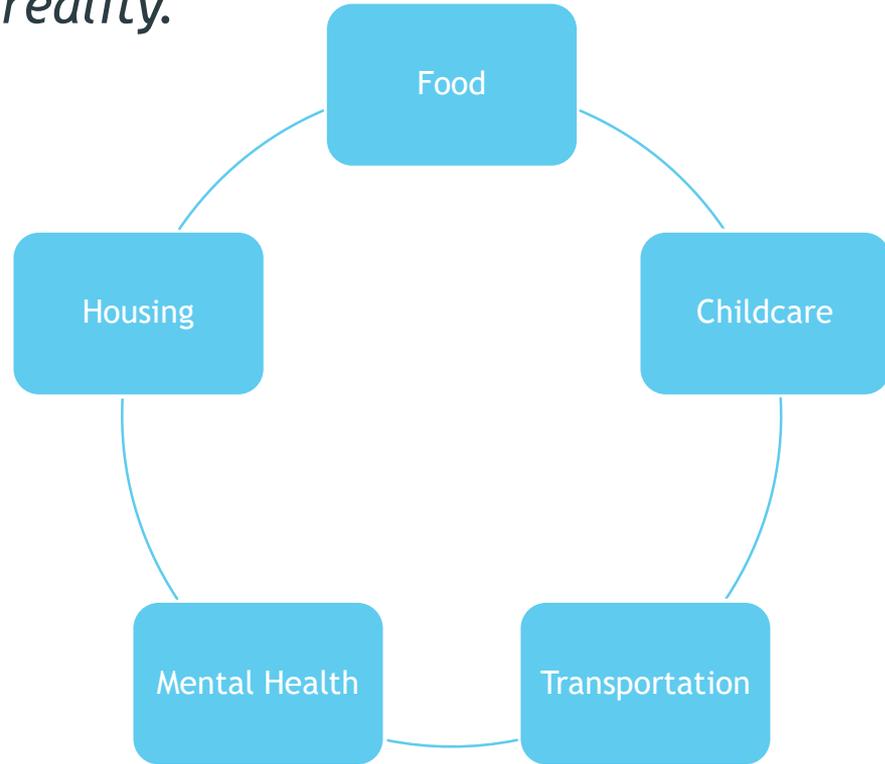
Addressing non-academic barriers to success
at Bucks County Community College

We assume that students' basic needs are being met.

That is not the reality.



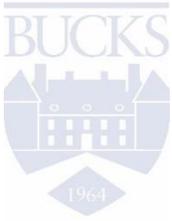
**Non-academic
barriers to success**



But isn't community college "cheap?"

- ▶ Tuition at community colleges might be more affordable, but the opportunity costs are almost the same for community college students as for those at four-year public institutions.

Action Plans Realized:

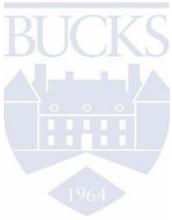


- Syllabus statement which refers students to a form and in-county resources at Faculty In-Service, posted on Employee and Student Portals
- Food Assistance form on website
- Students who fill out the form are contacted by a counselor
- Students receive a \$50 grocery store gift card, \$40 cafeteria gift card, suggested shopping list, snack pack, and information about county resources
- Snack packs available on three campuses

IMPACT:
80 applications from
61 individuals

Action Plans Realized:

- Fresh fruit baskets around campuses
- Part-time case worker hired
- Start-up for three-pantries received, finalizing locations
- Conducted a student survey in Fall 2019 in partnership with the Hope Center for College and Community Justice



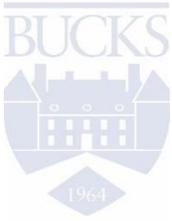
Direct line to the Bucks County Opportunity Council – referrals made

- Saved a student from eviction
- Economic self-sufficiency program
- Help with local food pantries
- Transportation, housing, paying bills

Comment from Student: Fall 2019 Survey

- ▶ “This semester started out really rough until I was able to find the time and transportation to meet with the counseling center. They helped me with gift card and food pantry resources. With this kind of support, I went from barely holding on to 2 A’s 1 B and 1 C- the 71% especially scared me as it would be detrimental to my financial aid and transfer applications to fail a class this semester- to having 3 A’s and a B. It was hard to keep up with my schoolwork before because a lot of times im too hungry to have the energy to focus and work. Sometimes the only way I can deal with not having anything to eat is to sleep as to not have to think about how hungry I am. I am really glad that I can have more meals now during the semester. It makes a huge difference with how I can manage my school/work/life balance.”

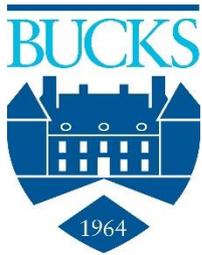
Looking to the future:



- Increase awareness of assistance on campuses and online
- Increase student involvement
- Continue talking to students, research, networking, and fundraising
- Researching feasibility of an emergency grant fund and how to address other barriers to success
- Food pantries on all three physical campuses

Would it be helpful to you to have a grocery-style food pantry on campus?

- ▶ Some pantry's I'm not able to get to because of transportation having
- ▶ Easier access
- ▶ convenient to pick up dinner when you have no funds or food to do so
- ▶ If I'm already on campus I don't have to go out of my way to look for food.
- ▶ Having to find time to go to food pantries during their limited hours can be hard during the semester with work on top of that. Having it on campus would be very convenient and the LBC is only 10 minutes from my house.
- ▶ That would be amazing honestly.
- ▶ Because some students have difficult times making ends meet and have limited supply of food.



Thank you!

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