



Mommy Grads is Searching for Participants and Mentors

Although obtaining a four-year degree is one of the best things a single mother can do for her economic well being and that of her family, this population faces many barriers in the completion of postsecondary education. These include: insufficient or unsteady income; a lack of financial support from the absent parent; an inability to pay tuition and expenses in the face of emergencies; insufficient access to healthcare; unreliable and expensive childcare; a lack of access to quality food and housing; and unreliable transportation. These barriers -- in conjunction with the loneliness and isolation that comes with being a nontraditional student -- can act as a deterrent to educational success.

Mommy Grads will attempt to address these issues for up to twelve single mother college students. The program's mission is to improve the quality of life for families, by providing single mother college students with resources and supports designed to ensure academic success and economic mobility. The program's services are as follows:

- Assessment of participants to determine utilization of available subsidies and benefits
- Assistance in applying/utilizing available benefits
- Assistance in applying for part-time or full-time employment
- Creation of a supportive social network for single mother students. Through this network, participants will:
 - o Receive peer support from other single mother students
 - o Receive support and mentoring from professional, working mothers
 - o Learn useful skills in areas such as time management, study skills, budgeting
- Provision of small grants (\$800 per academic year) to participants

To Become a Mentor

A key part of Mommy Grads is its mentoring program, the goal of which is to provide the Mommy Grads participants with advice, guidance, and a listening ear as they tackle the challenges of college life and single motherhood. Mentors will be asked to support their mentee for a full academic year (September 2009 – May 2010). Upon joining the program, mentors will be required to spend at least five hours per month with the mentee, with at least 2 of these hours being in the form of face-face meetings. Specific support will vary based on the participant, but in general will involve the provision of guidance around academic achievement, career development, and parenting.

Qualifications:

- Completion of at least a Bachelors level degree
- Mentors are required to be mothers, who are currently employed

- Must have great communication skills
- Must possess a commitment to community

To Become a Participant

During the Fall of 2009, the Mommy Grads will be targeted towards single mothers attending Temple University on a full-time basis. If you fit this criteria, and are interested in becoming a participant, please contact us at Jamie@mommygrads.com, or by phone at 267-439-4021.