

CROSS ROADS

Newsletter

Adult Learners and Students with Children

Spring 2025

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In this Volume
Welcome our New Chair-Elect!

Michelle Burke: Region IV-E
Spotlight! pg 2

Region VI - California Law
Changes pg 3

Student Spotlight pg 4

Resources pg. 5

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW CHAIR-ELECT

The ALSC KC is excited to announce that Lindsay Taylor has been elected as our new Chair-Elect! Working alongside our current chair, Lindsay will provide a wealth of experience supporting adult learners and students with children. For those who are unfamiliar with Lindsay, she was recently spotlighted in the “SA Voices From the Field” podcast.

"In this episode of SA Voices From the Field, Dr. Jill Creighton delve into the intricacies of supporting adult learners with Lindsay Taylor, a strategic program manager and NASPA leader. Lindsay shares her extensive experience in aiding adult learners through various academic and co-curricular initiatives, particularly her work with the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) and NASPA’s Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community."



You can view the podcast here:

<https://naspastories.libsyn.com/empowering-adult-learners-community-support-technology-and-goal-setting>



SA VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Empowering Adult Learners: Community Support, Technol...

30 ↶

00:00:00

↷ 30





Michelle Burke: Region IV-East

by Michelle Burke

Michelle Burke had a campus-based higher education career for more than 20 years as a Director of Student Life and Dean of Students. She has also taught graduate-level courses in higher education student affairs. Since 2015, she has worked "higher ed adjacent" in a number of roles as an organizational consultant and in partner relations with ed tech companies, most recently with Mentor Collective. Her first NASPA experience was in 1998 as a graduate student at the University of South Carolina and she has stayed involved ever since. Michelle has worked at the University of South Florida, University of South Carolina, Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, and Florida State University. With Mentor Collective, she worked with more than 70 campus partners along the East Coast from Maine to Florida. Michelle lives in Allendale, Michigan with her husband, Brett Huddleston, who teaches in the School of Communications at GVSU.

"When I took the role of Director of Postsecondary Programs and Partnerships with TalentFirst/Michigan Center for Adult College Success (The Center) last February, one of my first thoughts was getting involved with the NASPA Adult Learner and Students with Children Knowledge Community. From my past involvement with NASPA and other KCs, I knew it would be a wonderful way to connect with leaders and scholars doing the work that matches the mission of The Center. I'm honored to serve the KC as the Region IV-E representative!" cont...

Michelle looks forward to meeting members of the ALSC KC in person at the Region IV-E conference in Cleveland and at the 2025 national conference in New Orleans! She would also love to learn more about individual members through virtual coffee chats. You can reach Michelle at m.burke@talentfirst.net.

NASPA 2025 - IMPORTANT DATES AND PROGRAMS

A reminder that NASPA 2025 will be held from March 15-19th, 2025. ALSC KC will be at:

- The Knowledge Communities Fair (Sunday, 3/16, 3:30-4:30)
- ALSC KC Social
 - March 18th from 7 - 8PM
 - Room: Chequers

The ALSC KC is also sponsoring several programs! These include:

- Understanding the Value of Post-Secondary Opportunities for Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Delays at the Community College Level
- Beyond the Traditional: Breaking Barriers and Forging Diverse Pathways for First-Generation and Non-Traditional Students

OCTOBER 2024



♥ AB 2458 (Berman) - GAINS for Student Parents Act

- This bill adopts a common definition of student parents for statewide data collection, require campuses to identify student parents in their management information systems, clearly post cost of attendance information, and streamline cost of attendance adjustments for student parents. The aim of the bill is to ensure student parents receive the financial aid they are entitled to within existing financial aid rules.

♥ California Student Parent Almanac

- Over 300,000 Undergraduate Student Parents in California
- Median Age of 34 yrs. Old
- 54% have 2 or more children
- 61% are First Gen

♥ EdSource Article: How California can Unlock Multigenerational Economic Mobility and Success

- 3.9 Million California's With Children who still need to complete their Degrees
- Using Data as a Flashlights and Key: Use data to illuminate needs and struggles and as a key to unlock a deeper understanding of who California Student Parents are

♥ California Summit for Student Parents- Los Angeles Trade Tech September 2024

- Multigenerational approaches on parenthood and education
- Childcare solutions and accessible services for student parents
- Simultaneously addressing postsecondary education and early childhood education
- Policy advocacy and legislative initiatives for student parents
- Bridging the transfer student process
- Cultivating community partnerships to strengthen support networks

♥ Important Links:

- **California GAINS Act:**
 - <https://castudentparentalliance.org/ab-2458-signed/>
- **California Student Parent Almanac:**
 - <https://castudentparentalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Alliance-Student-Parent-Report-Final.pdf>
- **EdSource Article: How California can Unlock Multigenerational Economic Mobility and Success:**
 - https://edsources.org/2024/how-california-can-unlock-multigenerational-economic-mobility-and-success/719085?mc_cid=937da84f61&mc_eid=dd6d6f4c40

ATTENTION: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Here comes NASPA National and with that the ALSC KC needs you! Volunteering for your KC is a great start to networking through NASPA and building your CV.

- We are looking for a new volunteer coordinator!
- NASPA Regional Representatives - Looking for several for multiple regions!
- Visit <https://www.naspa.org/volunteer> and login for more information!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

by Leslie Meador McGhee

“The best advice I would give to a student like myself is to get organized and prioritize what is important to them. Whether that is their education or experiences they want to be involved in.”



I love learning, being in the educational atmosphere, and really enjoy online school and the discussion boards for each class vs on campus because I set my own schedule, I am in my personal space and get to have everything the way I need it to be successful in my classes. As someone that worked 14 years in the Diabetic pharmacy field prior to coming to DeVry, I brought with me the knowledge that continues to help me to thrive in classes that coincide with my work experience.

The best advice I would give to a student like myself is to get organized and prioritize what is important to them. Whether that is their education or experiences they want to be involved in. For me, I have ADHD and thrive on a set schedule. I cannot have chaos or too many things on my mind, so, I write down lists of things to do and schedule myself to include everything that I need to take care of whether it's professional or personal. I also use my calendar with set reminders, I keep my email under control, and respond to everyone as soon as possible.

I take every responsibility seriously and am happy to help to do extra things, but I know my limitations. With all this said, I would (and have) tell other students to schedule everything on either a calendar or hand write it so that it does not swirl around in their heads because it can cause stress, realize your limitations, if you cannot do something then say no, education is important and cannot take a back seat, there has to be a work/life balance. If you are struggling with managing your time then seek out some help, a life coach, counselor, or even someone at school like an advisor.

My educational experience with DeVry University has been an honor and has given me opportunities that I did not even realize existed or thought I could obtain, such as being on the Dean's List, Alumni, Honor Society, on the board of my chapter of the National Society of Leadership & Success (NSLS) along with all that I have learned from NSLS as well as all the connections



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Resources

For Student Parents (If you work with Student-parents, be sure to pass along!)

- Generation Hope is a non-profit organization in Washington D.C that works to support student-parents and their children through programs, resources, and policy change
 - Generation Hope Scholar's Program: For student parents in D.C
 - The Generation Hope Scholar Program surrounds teen parents with mentoring, tuition assistance, a peer community, and other vital, wrap-around services to help them earn their degrees.
 - <https://www.generationhope.org/scholar-program>
 - Generation Hope also provides general resources for student parents including information on financial assistance, childcare, etc.
 - <https://www.generationhope.org/resources-workshops>

For Adult Learners:

- American Association for Adult and Continuing Education
 - A professional association that works to provide leadership for the field of adult and continuing education by expanding opportunities for adult growth and development. It is a member based organization where you can find the benefits of joining here: <https://www.aaace.org/page/QuickLinkBenefits>
 - Even for those who are not members, there are a ton of resources for Adult learners and those who work for this population. <https://www.aaace.org/page/Resources>

For Family Care Givers:

- AARP Family Caregiving Guides: <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/prepare-to-care-planning-guide/>
- Caregiver Action Network: <https://www.caregiveraction.org/>
- Area Agencies on Aging- Area Agencies on Aging have resources in your local area. This is will help you find those: https://eldercare.acl.gov/Public/About/Aging_Network/AAA.aspx
- National Council on Aging: <https://www.ncoa.org/caregivers>
- Administration for Community Living:
 - Support to Caregivers: <https://acl.gov/programs/support-caregivers>
- US Department of Health and Human Services. This site has resources by state:
 - <https://www.hhs.gov/aging/state-resources/index.html>

**THANKS FOR
READING!**

This newsletter was compiled and edited by Dr. Jared Cook

The Adult Learners and Students with Children Knowledge Community at NASPA invites you to submit related articles you would like to see published.

alscknowledgecommunity@gmail.com