

# Basic Needs Supports Yield Big Payoffs for Community College Students

*Connecting Community College Students to Resources for Food, Housing, and Childcare Brings Dividends, says The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice*

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES, October 5, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Connecting Texas community college students to resources addressing their basic needs for food, housing, childcare and more offers big dividends, according to a new experimental study from [The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice](#). Nudging students with simple emails more than doubled use of the [Amarillo College](#) basic needs center and increased their odds of completing developmental education by 20%.



The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice

“

We were impressed by Amarillo’s efforts to treat students as humans first and we wanted to know if that translated into academic improvements.”

*Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab,  
President and Founder of The  
Hope Center*

The award-winning rural Texas community college is widely known for its culture of caring and a strategy of loving its students to success. The Hope Center described these efforts in a 2019 report, and leaders at Amarillo have provided support to institutions around the nation that seek to improve student success. Now, for the first time, the impact of that important work has been quantified with a rigorous evaluation.

“We were impressed by Amarillo’s efforts to treat students as humans first and we wanted to know if that translated

into academic improvements. Recognizing that the campus’ Advocacy & Resource Center (ARC) was underutilized, we designed a study to test whether we could boost the use of that support and whether in turn, students were more successful in school,” said [Dr. Sara Goldrick-Rab](#), President and Founder of The Hope Center.

With support from the Trellis Foundation, college staff partnered with The Hope Center to

identify low-income students and those in developmental education for targeted personalized email outreach. The messages simply urged students to visit the ARC. Researchers then compared targeted students to a randomized control group. They found:

- Nudging boosted students' odds of visiting the ARC from 22% to 56%.
- Before the evaluation, very few male students visited the ARC; nudging increased their odds of seeking that support.
- Passage rates of developmental education coursework—a critical milestone towards a community college degree—increased by 20%.

“Meeting basic needs for our students is critical to improving their chances at success. One of the biggest barriers for students accessing support is understanding their need for it and trusting us to deliver. The Advocacy and Resource Center is the foundation for our college’s commitment to love each and every student to success,” Russell Lowery-Hart, President of Amarillo College, noted.



Amarillo College's Advocacy & Resource Center

As Congressional and state policymakers, as well as college presidents, seek new ways to keep college students on track during a global pandemic, this study provides some hope. Basic needs supports, including emergency aid, should continue to be expanded and evaluated as higher education learns to effectively educate #RealCollege students.

#### About The Hope Center

The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice is an action-based research center in The Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University that is redefining what it means to be a student-ready college with a national movement centering on #RealCollege students' basic needs. Our work is guided by five pillars: action research, institutional transformation, policy and advocacy, communications, and sustainability.

DEIRDRE HOPKINS

The Hope Center for College, Community & Justice  
+1 609-980-2295

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/553023874>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2021 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.