Juggling school and parenthood

Nearly one third of community college students are parents.


Community colleges serve non-traditional students including those who are parents. These students carry the responsibilities of advancing their academic goals while balancing the demands of parenthood. In the 2011-2012 academic year, 29 percent of public community college students indicated that they were parents. Of those students, 53 percent were single parents. These were much higher rates than students at public four-year institutions, where only 12 percent of the students reported they had children—42 percent of whom were single parents, according to 2012 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study data.

For more information, contact Kent Phillippe, associate vice president for research and student success at the American Association of Community Colleges, at (202) 416-4505 or kphillippe@aacc.nche.edu, or Rahel Tekle, AACC research associate, at (202) 416-4508 or rtekle@aacc.nche.edu.