

#REALCOLLEGE™

The Movement

#RealCollege is redefining what it means to be a student-ready college. Food and housing security are essential conditions of learning. Students need enough to eat and a safe place to sleep in order to graduate.

#RealCollege2019 Convening

The 4th annual #RealCollege convening took place September 28-29, 2019 at Houston Community College's West Houston Institute. Over **500 people**, including student leaders, 12 college presidents, practitioners, a state legislator and state secretary of higher education, researchers, business leaders, activists, and philanthropists, came together to develop viable, effective, and sustainable ways to address college food and housing insecurity.

Participants came from **32 states**, including Alabama, Montana, Idaho, and Oklahoma. 1 in 5 attendees were from Texas.



Click on the image to view the #RealCollege2019 recap video.

Impact

Our conference was created to build community among people working largely in isolation to find food and housing solutions for students. We aim to inspire, educate, and activate.



The #RealCollege conversation **reached 1.3M** via social media and made **5.9M impressions** on Twitter.



Dr. Monique Umphrey @Preeminent_MW · Sep 29

"In higher ed, our job is to leave people better than we found them." - @michaelsorrell #RealCollege2019



Lauren McGowan @LaurenMcgowan · Sep 29

1. Students are human first
 2. We need to push beyond food pantries & acknowledge that couch surfing and vehicle residency is homelessness.
 3. Students are the hope and power of the #realcollege movement.
 4. Policy change is coming. Get ready.
 5. VOTE
- ~ SGR #RealCollege2019

Participants left the conference and took action!

- Several colleges created new emergency aid programs.
- A college foundation director expanded her fundraising efforts for basic needs programs.
- A member of a university board of regents began planning for basic needs supports in her state's system.
- A state higher education executive officer introduced supports for food insecurity into a state free college bill.
- A student began volunteering to speak at local events in his area to raise awareness of the need to support homeless students.

HOUSE BILL No. 1018
DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: Noncode.

Synopsis: Student hunger and homelessness. Establishes the student hunger and homelessness study committee (committee) for the purposes of: (1) studying the prevalence of homelessness, housing insecurity, and food insecurity among students at Indiana colleges and universities during the 2020 academic year; and (2) providing suggestions for eliminating these issues. Provides that the committee must determine, as accurately as practicable, the number of Indiana college and university students who are homeless, housing insecure, or food insecure. Provides that the committee consists of: (1) an employee of the family and social services administration; (2) an employee of the department of child services; (3) an employee of the department of the department of higher education; (4) an employee of the commission for higher education; (5) a member of the commission on improving the status of authority; (6) a member of the commission on improving the status of children in Indiana; and (7) an employee of each state educational institution. Provides that the committee may solicit assistance from private groups, colleges, and universities in performing the study. Requires the committee to report the results of the study to the governor and the legislative council not later than July 31, 2021.

Effective: July 1, 2020.

14 likes

earllharrisjr I have started filing bills for the upcoming 2020 Session. Working to help college students dealing with Food and Homelessness continues to be a top initiative of mine. HB 1018 will provide help in #Indiana.

Josh Peters-McBride (He/Him/His) @jpetersmcbride · Sep 29

There are moments in a career/profession when you start a new chapter. [#RealCollege2019](#), my first [#RealCollege](#) experience, just did that for me. This weekend didn't just reignite my passion for this work, it centered it in a real way. I'm ready to be in the arena. [#LetsDoThis](#)

Students

Students lead the [#RealCollege](#) movement and they came from all over to join the conversation in Houston. Twenty-five students received full travel scholarships to attend.



Ernest Ezeugo @ErnestEzeugo · Sep 29

There's nothing like **fellowship** with other student-centered practitioners to remind you that, while the work can sometimes feel lonely, none of us are doing it alone. [#RealCollege2019](#)

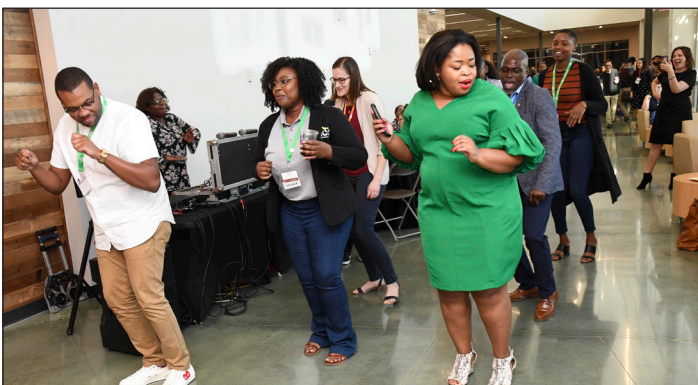
“Nothing about us without us.”

Charlotte West @szarlotka

[#RealCollege2019](#) was attended by everyone from hungry students to college presidents. They talked about solutions, as well as general college affordability, bridging research and practice. These are the folks who take care of students once they get them to campus.

Community

We visited the Houston Food Bank to learn about their food scholarship program at Houston Community College, hosted a film festival, and learned from nationally renowned authors. We also danced!



Access

Accessibility and affordability are key to the #RealCollege movement.

We provided scholarships to nearly 1 in 2 conference participants, offsetting the cost of registration.

The conference was available via live stream, and inclusivity was a central goal.



#RealCollege2020 Planned Impact

Our 5th annual conference will expand the #RealCollege conversation to include a focus on transportation, childcare, and mental health. Special programming will focus on the roles that entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and federal policymakers can play in supporting students' basic needs. Join us!

Save the Date: #RealCollege2020

October 10th-11th

(Preconference activities October 9, Post-conference activities October 12)

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2019 Sponsors

#RealCollege2019 was made possible by the following partners.



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