



Addressing
Students' Basic
Needs with a
Culture of Caring

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Have you heard about college "kids" these days?

Babies and College Students:

- Ability to sleep anywhere
- Random bouts of crying
- Will try to eat almost anything
- Enjoy watching cartoons
- Known for their messiness
- Brains are in a constant state of absorbing knowledge
- Irregular sleep schedules
- Often served bland mushy foods



“I want to get a decent job and support my family.”

“I need to finish what I started.”

“This isn’t about *me*.”



The data stand in sharp contrast to the stereotypes.

Even the 18 year olds in college aren't "kids" anymore.

This is #RealCollege



If we are going to help students fight for graduation, we have to get real...





The New Economics of College

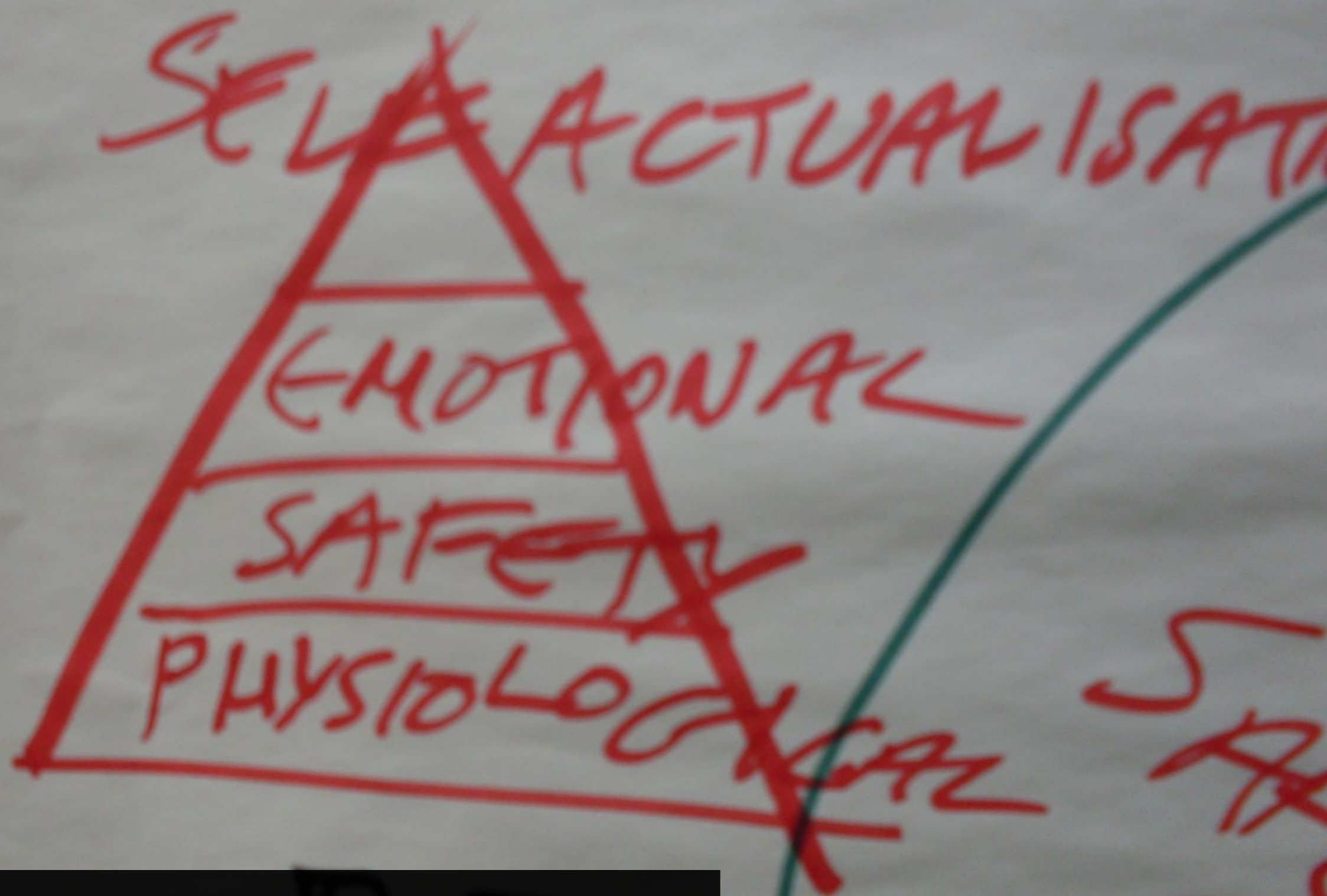
- College prices are higher than ever
- Most family incomes are stagnant
- The safety net is shredded
- Work doesn't pay
- Many colleges are underfunded

“I’m having trouble providing for my mom.. at times she needs help so I’ve been helping with her bills...Yeah sometimes I feel like I don’t want to pay for this, but at the same time, when I look back and I needed this when I was younger, she worked hard for me.” #FamilyMatters



CASH RULES
EVERYTHING
AROUND ME





It's easy to forget Maslow

FOOD SECURITY

I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for

3 or more days: Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you lose weight because there wasn't enough money for food??

High

0 Items

Secure

Marginal

1-2 Items

Low

3-5 Items

Food Insecure

Very Low

6-10 Items

I worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more.

The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have money to get more.

Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?

Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

3 or more days: Did you ever not eat for a whole day because there wasn't enough money for food?

HOUSING SECURITY & HOMELESSNESS

Housing
Secure
No Items

Moved in with other
people

Did not pay full amount of
utilities
Moved two or more times

Had a rent increase that made
it difficult to pay

Housing
Insecure
Any Item

Did not pay full amount of rent

Moved in with other people
due to financial problems

Lived with others beyond
the expected capacity of
the housing

Not knowing where you were
going to sleep, even for one
night

Homeless
Any Item

Thrown out of home

Stayed in an abandoned
building, car, other place
not meant for housing

Stayed in a shelter

Evicted from home

HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN COLLEGE:

RESULTS FROM A NATIONAL STUDY
OF BASIC NEEDS INSECURITY IN
HIGHER EDUCATION

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Jed Richardson,
and Anthony Hernandez
Wisconsin HOPE Lab

MARCH 2017

- 33,000 students
- 70 community colleges
- 24 states

- 56% food insecure
- 51% housing insecure
- 14% homeless



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The numbers look similar across Texas, in our studies and others' like Trellis

- Amarillo College
- DCCCD
- HCC



STILL HUNGRY AND HOMELESS IN COLLEGE

Sara Goldrick-Rab, Jed Richardson, Joel Schneider,
Anthony Hernandez, and Clare Cady

APRIL 2016

- 20,000 students
- 35 universities
- 14 states

- 36% food insecure
- 36% housing insecure
- 9% homeless

Homeless Prevalence Last 12 Months



White & non-LGBTQ

4%



Black & non-LGBTQ

7%



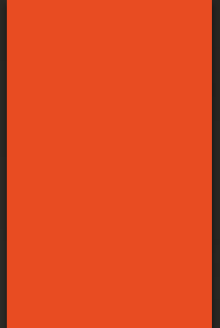
White & LGBTQ

8%



Black & LGBTQ

16%



Homeless Prevalence Last 12 Months



Parent &
Community
College

11%



Veteran &
Community
College

14%



Pell & Community
College

15%

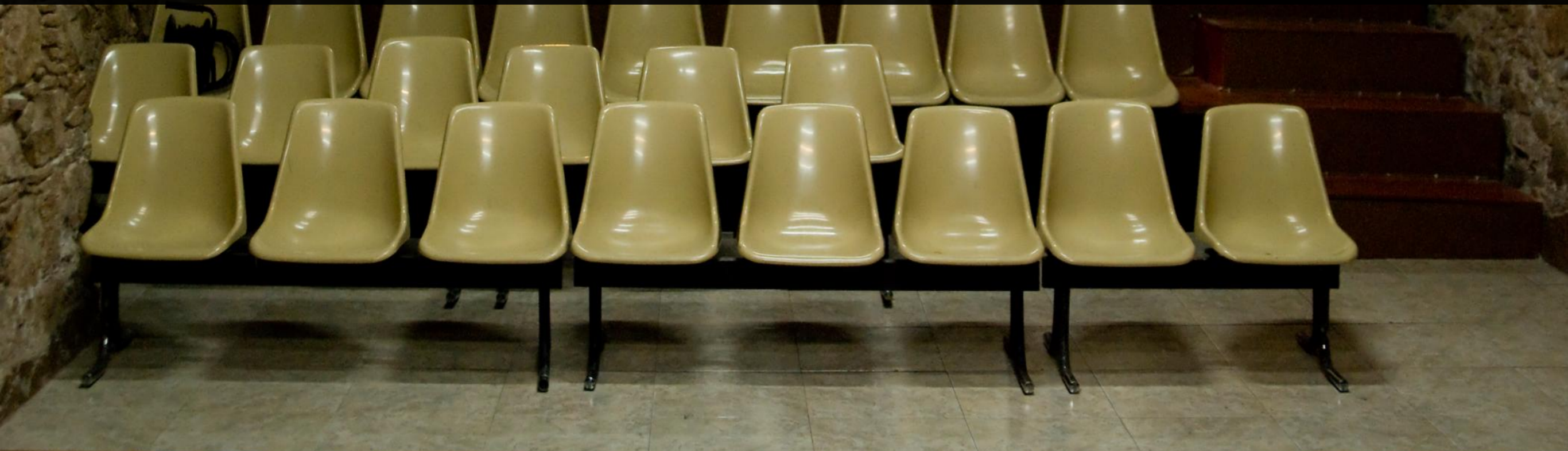


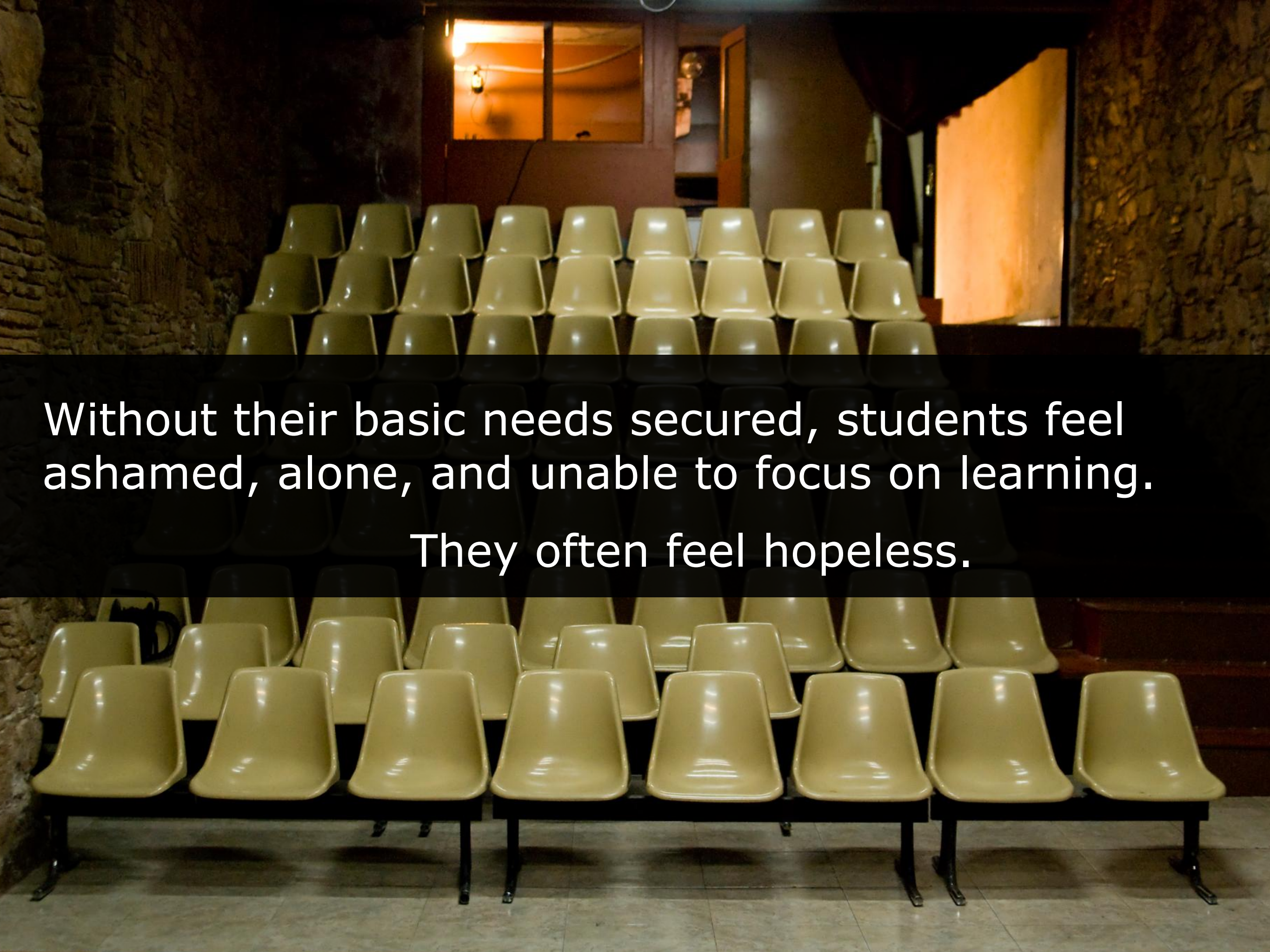
Former Foster Youth

24%



Students enduring poverty spend as much time on college, but more time working & less time sleeping.





Without their basic needs secured, students feel ashamed, alone, and unable to focus on learning. They often feel hopeless.

A close-up photograph of a fire burning in a fireplace. The image shows several logs of wood, some of which are glowing with a bright orange and yellow light from the fire. The flames are visible, rising from the logs. The background is dark, making the fire stand out. The text "We can and must do better." is overlaid on the image in white, sans-serif font.

We can and must do better.



Step 1:

Remember,
students are
humans first.



Step 2:

Commit to a culture of caring that goes beyond charity. Change systems, policies, and practices.

See our case study on Amarillo College!



Step 3:

Ask questions. Most colleges have some resources to help students. For online students, their communities do too.

College staff do not have to turn into social workers—but everyone needs to know one.



Expand those resources and *advertise them*:

- Build new partnerships with housing authorities, food banks, childcare providers, mechanics, accountants, lawyers, faith-based communities, and so on...
- Offer benefits access
- Expand emergency funds: aim for grants without repayment delivered in 2-3 days
- Co-location and integration helps



You have wonderful examples throughout Texas:

- Food scholarships in Houston (*go JoEllen & Shar-day*)
- Benefits access via Aunt Bertha in Dallas
- Burgeoning community partnerships in El Paso and San Antonio
- *But most are now doing referrals & food assistance, while few are supporting housing and public benefits access*



Step 4: Share information on the syllabus.

"Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable her to provide any resources that she may possess."



Step 5: Do the #RealCollege survey.
Share the data. Share the stories.
Humanize. Destigmatize.

Advocate

- For greater access to public benefits for college students
- For expanding the national school lunch program
- For affordable housing and childcare
- For work that pays
- For a financing model for public higher education that is *inclusive and effective.*



#RealCollege is a
movement- and a
conference
Sept 28-29, 2019 at
HCC!

RealCollege.org



Stay in touch

THE **hope** CENTER
FOR COLLEGE,
COMMUNITY,
AND JUSTICE

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