Developing Resources and Supports that Work: An Exploration of the Experiences of South Texas Community College Students

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Research Questions

• How do students perceive support resources and services?
• What are the circumstances that prompt students in crisis to reach out and receive such resources and supports?
Methodology

• This qualitative study has two components designed to explore and document the perspectives and experiences of three groups.
  • 1. Structured interviews of two groups with knowledge of the south Texas region.
    • An expert in poverty culture
    • Several region natives
  • 2. Focus groups with students currently attending community college in the region.
    • Del Mar College
    • Laredo College
    • Southwest Texas Junior College
Preliminary Findings

• After the structured interviews were conducted, two themes emerged:
  • Stigmatized thinking of people in poverty or crisis
  • Normalizing support resources and services as a means for de-stigmatization

• The following areas will be explored during the student focus groups:
  • Perceptions and awareness of support resources and services
  • People delivering support resources and services
  • Stigmatized thinking of people in poverty or crisis
  • Normalizing support resources and services
Next Steps

• Student focus groups schedule:
  • Southwest Texas Junior College – February 24
  • Del Mar College – February 26
  • Laredo College – TBD

• Analysis and development of final deliverable
  • Written report of the findings that will guide the development of a roadmap/tool for practitioners who are designing programs and developing resources to meet the needs of all students