

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

