

Partnerships with Parents

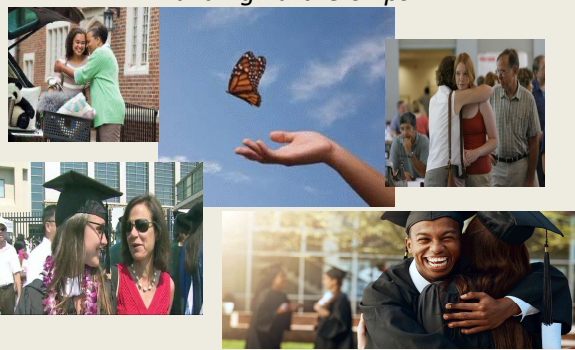
Northeast Ohio Medical University

Ohio Program for Campus Safety
& Mental Health

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Parental Involvement: Building Partnerships



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Objectives for Today


1. To better understand the theoretical context underlying parent engagement in higher education.
2. To understand the paradigm shift that is necessary to partner effectively with families of college students.
3. To explore possible touchpoints for creating a comprehensive family engagement program.

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Agenda:

1. Current perception of college parents
2. Theoretical context for building a program for parents
3. Purpose of a parent program
4. Creating a comprehensive program
5. Parents of FY students
6. Parents of returning students
7. Concluding thoughts


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"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
Helen Keller

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Current Perception of College Parents and Their Students



- Helicopter, snowplow, lawnmower, Blackhawk, submarine, bulldozer, velcro, volcano
- Teacup, snowflake, kidults, trophy, boomerang, crispies, turtles, tightrope generation

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PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE LITERATURE

From Separation-Individuation


- Chickering and Reisser (1993)
- Key assumption – Successful identity formation must involve separation

To Attachment Theory Modified

- Secure attachment sets the stage
- Psychological theory of student development

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EMERGING ADULTHOOD



- Jeffrey Arnett
- 18 – 28 years old
- Five Characteristics of Emerging Adults:
 - Identity exploration
 - Age of instability
 - Self-focused age
 - Age of feeling in-between
 - Age of possibilities

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The Journey to Self Authorship

The shift from relying on external voices to developing and trusting an internal voice

Marcia Baxter-Magolda

Three stages of development

- External formulas
- Crossroads
- Self-authorship



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The Recentering Process

Jennifer Tanner

*Crucial Turning Point:
shift in power,
agency,
responsibility, and
dependence*

Figure 1. The recentering process

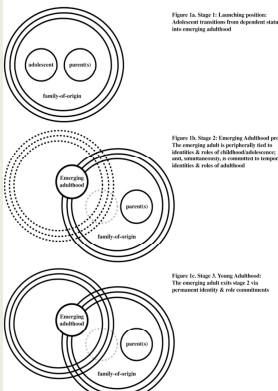


Figure 1a, Stage 1. Launching adolescent:
Adolescent transitions from dependent status into emerging adulthood.


Figure 1b, Stage 2. Emerging adulthood proper:
The emerging adult is a psychosocial state—identities & roles of adulthood subvert one another, uncertainty, a transition to temporary identities & roles of adulthood.

Figure 1c, Stage 3. Young adulthood:
The emerging adult exits stage 2, his permanent identity & role is consummated.


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College Parent Development

(Savage 2020)



Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



The College Parent's Pyramid of Protection

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PARADIGM SHIFT IN PRACTICE

- **From Managing Parents**
 - Telling them to go away
- **To Partnering with Parents**
 - Commitment to supporting appropriate family involvement


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Purpose of a Parent Program

- Educate parents about shift in roles
- Help parents feel engaged
- Lay a foundation for a partnership
- Partner with parents to support student growth

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Shift in Parent Role




- Caretaking to Coaching
 - From managing to consulting
 - “On the sidelines”
- FERPA
 - Educational opportunity
 - “Kick in the ribs”
 - Who is in the driver’s seat?
- Disability Accommodations
 - Educational necessity
 - Shift in laws – IDEA, ADA
 - Self advocacy

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The Tripod of College Success

- Students
- College
- Parents



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A Comprehensive Program 7 Touchpoints

Admission	• College Readiness
Accepted Students	• Preview of college parenting
Summer Orientation	• Realities of college experience
Move-in Day	• Letting go/transition
Family Weekend	• Reality has set in
Winter New Beginnings	• Fresh start for some
Continuing Students	• Upper-class transitions – sophomore slump, career transitions and graduation

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Touchpoint #1 – HS Senior Admission Days
College Readiness


- Waiting/decisions
- College parent role
- Why college?
- Getting ready for the transition
- Comfortable with the uncomfortable



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Touchpoint #2 – Accepted Student Day
Preview of college parenting

- Decision making process
- Tripod of student success
- College parent responsibilities
- Importance of summer orientation
- Preparing – students
- Preparing – parents
- Introduction to resources



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Touchpoint #3 – Summer Orientation
Realities of college experience

Now	Summer	Upcoming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purposes of orientation • Anticipating change • Helicopters, emerging adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using summer intentionally • Conversations/communication • Independence prep • Roommates • Packing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS vs. college • FERPA/Parent Portal • Clean slate • Culture shock • THE phone call • Move in Day

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Touchpoint #4 - Move-in Day
Letting go/transition



- Awkwardness
- Patience
- When it is time to go GO!
- First six weeks
- Homesickness
- Care packages

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Touchpoint #5 – Family Weekend

Reality has set in

- Maslow’s hierarchy for parents (Savage, 2020)
- First semester challenges
- Changing friendships
- Midterm grades
- Finding resources/ asking for help
- Talking to professors
- Deciding/confirming major
- Stress/anxiety
- First visit home



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Touchpoint #6 – Second Semester

New Beginnings



- Increased parent involvement?
- Emotional
- Second semester blues
- Transfer talk
- Academic difficulty/probation
- Reinforcing resources

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Touchpoint #7 – Moving forward

Upper-class transitions

Sophomore year	Junior year	Senior year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophomore slump • Declaring a major • Transfer questions • Settling in to “real” work • Study abroad/away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career preparation • Internships • Leadership opportunities • Increasing academic demands • Completing on time/degree audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate school • Transition to career • Job search/career resources • Capstone experiences • Potential fifth year/super senior • “Last” experiences • Boomerang kids/returning home

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Questions to Consider

- What is your school’s philosophical attitude about parents?
- What does your school currently do with/for parents?
- Does your school *manage* parents or *partner* with parents?
- Are there other touchpoints that could be important?

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Concluding Thoughts

- Parent Education
 - Parent education can be accomplished within the parameters of FERPA
- Parent Partnership
 - Connecting with parents supports student growth
- Retention
 - Partnering with parents to support students can increase student retention
- Resiliency
 - The end goal for both parents and institutions is student growth and resiliency

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Resources

- Arnett, J. J. (2004). *Emerging adulthood: The winding road from the late teens through the twenties*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
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- Tanner, J. L. (2006). Recentering during emerging adulthood: A critical turning point in life span human development. In J. J. Arnett & J. L. Tanner (Eds.), *Emerging adults: Coming of age in the 21st century* (pp. 21-55). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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