

# Emerging Student Trends in Higher Education

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# Who Are Today's Students?

- The majority did not grow up with two biological parents in their home.
- 25% have an immigrant parent.
- 46% are first generation.
- 45% are students of color
- Most do not have a biological sibling; many have step siblings.
- Only two-thirds identify as exclusively heterosexual.

# Who Are Today's Students?

- The majority do not consider themselves religious.
- Most believe there are more than two genders.
- Most didn't regularly date and were not sexually active in high school.
- Most don't read newspapers; news comes through social media.
- 77% have experienced moderate to severe distress.
- 40% of college students work full-time, and 49% are independent from their parents.

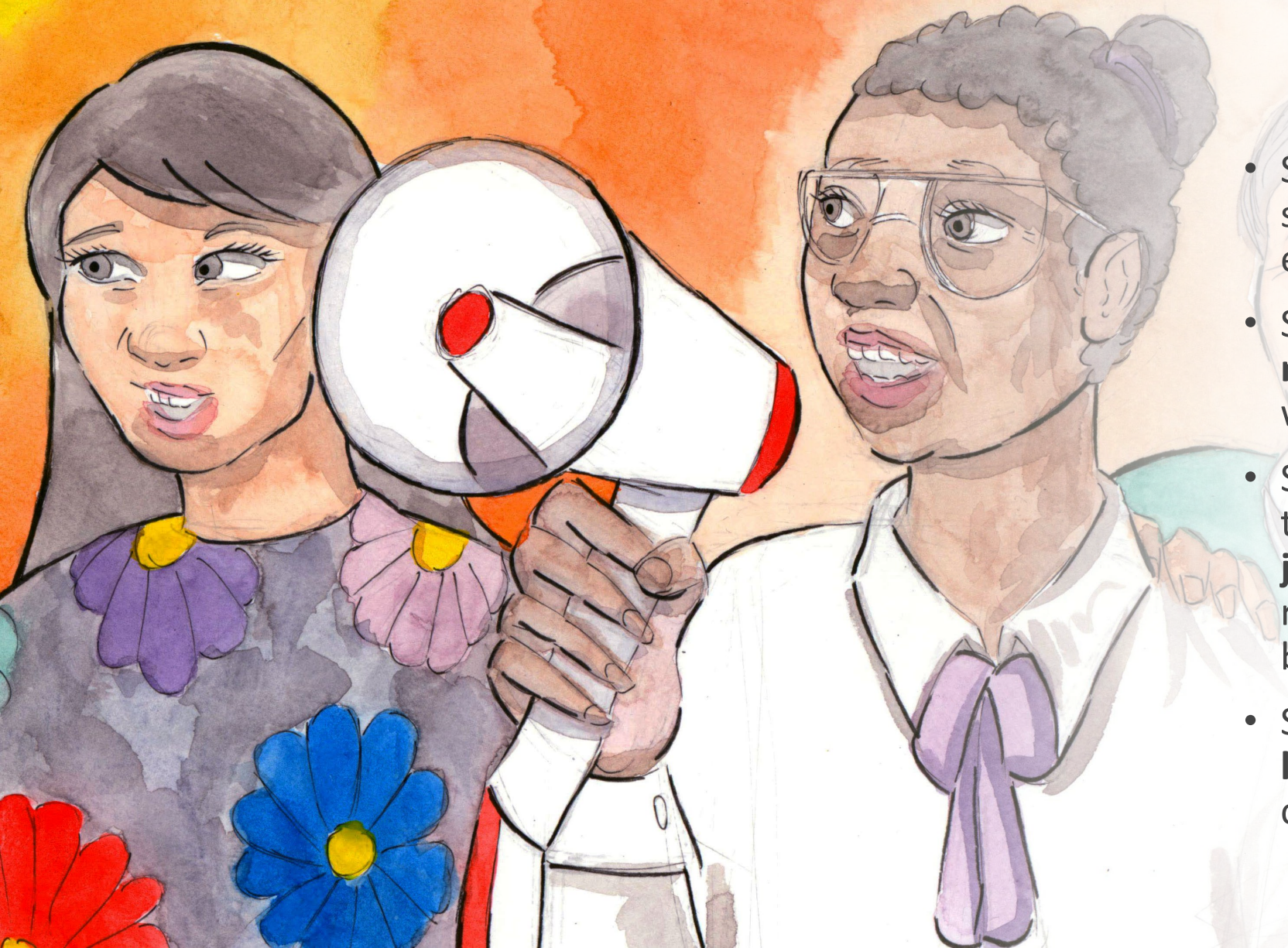
# What Do Students Want Out of College?

- A low-cost, high-quality education
- The autonomy to learn
- Positive connections and friendships
- A safe environment – physically, health-wise, and mentally
- More opportunities that merge academic and co-curricular learning
- A future career and personal growth






# Factors to Consider When Working With Students



- Students are more **outspoken** about slights and inequities that they experience.
- Students are interested in **change making**, innovation, and making the world better.
- Students need us to foster a mind-set that adulthood requires **mature judgment**, a sense of personal responsibility and the ability to bounce back from disappointments.
- Students expect **dynamic forms of learning** – inside and outside the classroom.

# Changes That We Need To Make to Better Serve Students

- Change our **delivery of student services** to students.
  - Offer a larger **variety of learning experiences** – degree and non-degree experiences.
  - Prepare students for their **post-graduation lives**.
  - Understand that **mental health needs** to be at the foundation of learning.
  - Encourage students to have an **exploratory attitude** rather than transactional.
  - Promote **healthy social relationships** among all college constituents.
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# Ideas for Empowering Students



- Provide opportunities to learn skills as well as topic-based knowledge.
- Offer opportunities to learn how to interact in diverse and complex environments.
- Allow for mistakes, understanding that we all need to learn how to navigate the world as it changes.
- Provide opportunities to tackle tough topics and to disagree respectfully.
- Offer opportunities to learn communication, research, socio-emotional and solution-oriented skills.





Questions?