

Request for Proposals

Class, Poverty, and Education: Exploring Resilience, Structural Barriers, and Policy Change for Low-Income Parenting Students

Academic Conference

Friday, March 28, 2025

This conference will focus on the intersections of poverty, education, resilience, and the experiences of low-income parenting students through keynote speakers, panels, seminars and speed sessions that emphasize the exploration of both structural barriers and the role of education as a tool for social mobility, while also signaling policy reform discussions. Speakers will receive a discount code to enter at the time of registration.

This request for proposals aims to attract engaging and innovative proposals to provide participants with timely information and tools, while inciting collaborations across institutions, departments and communities. Priority will be given to proposals that connect to one of the following conference themes/:

Supporting Low-Income Parenting Students

Topics such as: Intersectionality of poverty, single parenthood, and education; breaking the cycle for families in poverty; challenges specific to single mothers; policy recommendations for improving access and support

Strategies for Overcoming Structural Barriers

Topics such as: Social mobility, poverty, and the role of education; addressing unmet parenting student needs in higher education; financial, emotional, and institutional supports for an inclusive approach

Resilience and Empowerment in Parenting Students

Topics such as: Mental health impacts of balancing parenthood, financial hardship, and education; how low-income parenting students overcome adversity; coping strategies and resilience among parenting students

Policy Change and Advocacy for Parenting Students

Topics such as: Role of public policy in supporting low-income parenting students; policy changes for an inclusive classroom that supports parenting students; campus improvements in areas like financial aid, housing, childcare support, and flexible scheduling and learning options

Session Types

- 20-minute Speed Session: Individual mini lectures designed to engage and inspire.

- 45-minute Seminar: Scholarly sessions based on evidence-based practices
- 60-minute Panel: Moderated discussion allows panelists to share expertise relative to the conference theme and objectives.

CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS SHOULD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A concise title
- An abstract that includes session goals (max 200 words)
- Preferred length of time and session type from list above (*presenters may be asked to accept a different time/format)
- Presenter bios (max 150 words per person)

Your proposal should be clear and concise. Reviewers will look favorably upon proposals that:

- Offer theories, research findings, practical models, and/or strategies that reflect the conference theme and objective(s), and have proven effective;
- Are innovative and interactive; and
- Identify the intended audience and goals for the session (including what attendees will gain from the session).

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION REVIEW AND SELECTION

- Clarity and coherence of submission.
- Relevance and usefulness to the intended audience, such as: Specific practical sessions (e.g., problem-solving, implementation, and research-based/data-driven sessions).
- Presentation approach and level of participant engagement in the session.
- Contribution to scholarship and research and/or new innovative practice(s).
- Relevance to the conference theme (a literal/linear connection is not required).
- Extent to which proposal captures emerging trends in research and practice.
- Extent to which process, project, or innovation can be replicated or modified by other post-secondary institutions.
- Overall quality of proposal.

Please understand that because of our limited time together and our goal of providing a diversity of thoughtful sessions, a proposal may satisfy conference criteria, but it may not be selected due to the limited number of scheduled sessions.

DIRECT QUESTIONS TO: Dr. Michele Vancour at vancourm1@southernct.edu.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TO: <https://www.southernct.edu/compass-conference>