



SPARK and YOU!

Creating and Collaborating with SPARK

September 10, 2026



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In the Chat Box

1) Name

1) Affiliation

1) How you heard about SPARK

1) Optional: student parent status

Today's Facilitators



**Nina Owolabi,
Ph.D.**

STAR Fellow and
SPARK Collaborative
Working Board Member



**Sarah Galison,
MSW**

STAR Fellow and
SPARK Collaborative
Working Board Member



**Renee Ryberg,
Ph.D.**

SPARK Collaborative
Working Board Member
Principal Postsecondary
Value & Public Trust,
Ithaka S+R



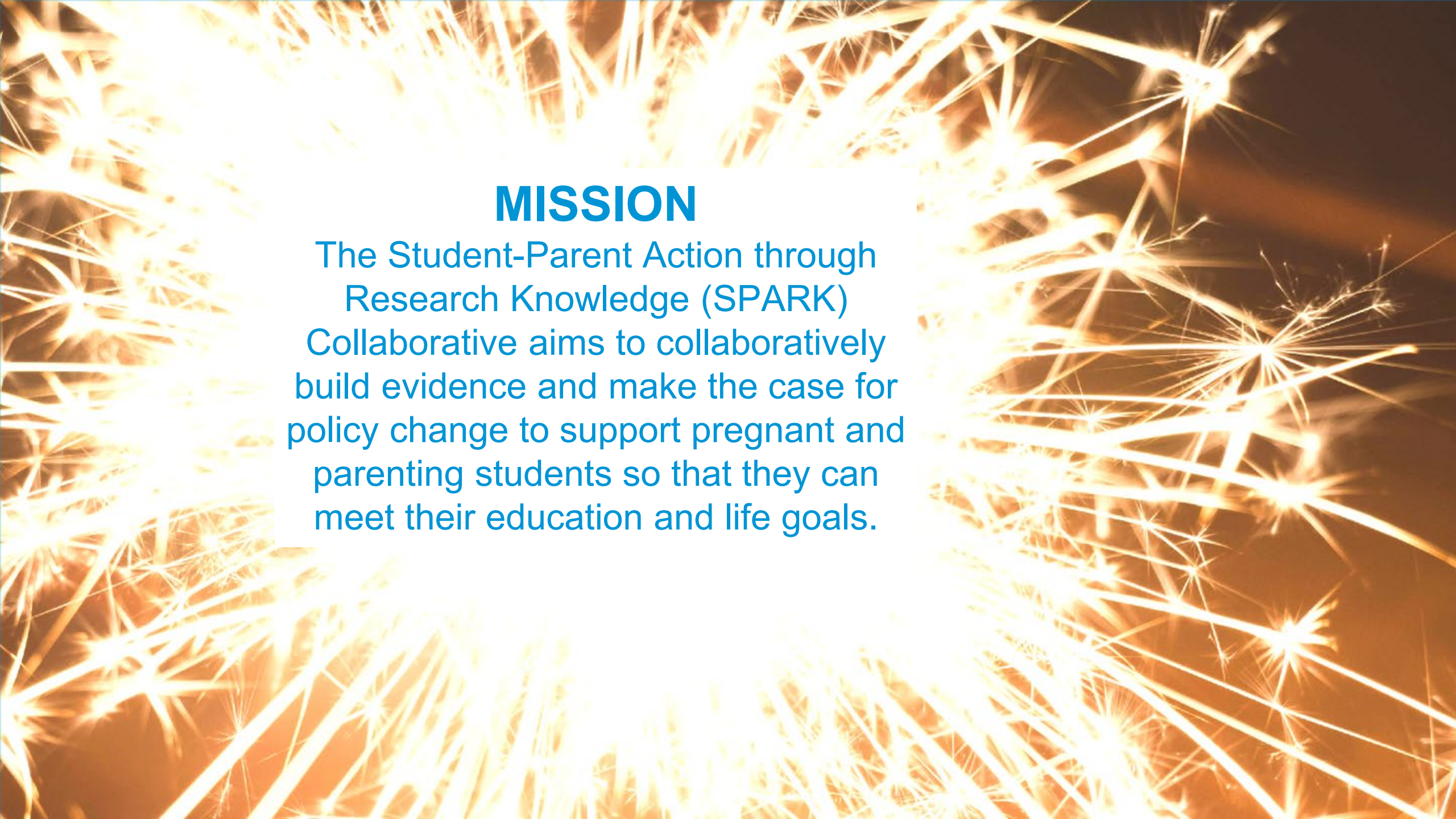
**Anne Hofmann,
Ph.D.**

Professor of English
and Humanities,
Frederick Community
College



VISION

We endeavor for pregnancy and parenting to not determine a person's ability to meet their education goals. We also envision a future where all organizations and decision makers are coordinated and are working toward supporting parents in pursuing and achieving their goals.



MISSION

The Student-Parent Action through
Research Knowledge (SPARK)
Collaborative aims to collaboratively
build evidence and make the case for
policy change to support pregnant and
parenting students so that they can
meet their education and life goals.

The SPARK Makerspace

Build your impact with our tools!

Family-Friendly College Toolkit

Website (with events calendar & member-only resources)

SPARK Resources & Tools

Publication Support Services

Social Networking

Newsletter & Resource Library

Student Parent Blog

We can't
light the
SPARK
without
YOU!

9/10/2026



Membership

FREE and easy sign up

- Agree to our 8 Values
 - Collaborative
 - Driven by lived expertise
 - Fairly compensated, Realistic, and Supported
 - Cumulative
 - Knowledge sharing
 - Credited
 - Self-defined
 - Inclusive
 - Whole family
- Full access to our resource library and members-only features including constellations



studentparentaction.org/join-us

The background is a solid blue color with several white starburst or fireworks-like patterns scattered across it. The most prominent pattern is a large, multi-pointed starburst centered behind the text. Other smaller, similar patterns are located in the upper left, upper right, and lower left areas.

Get to Know Our Website

Easy Connection Points: Events



[PROFILE](#) [JOB BOARD](#) [GRANTS AND FUNDING](#) [DIRECTORY](#) [INTEREST FORM](#) [LOGOUT](#)

[Home](#) [About SPARK](#) [News and Events](#) [Resources](#) [Get Involved](#)

Events

Month View

List View

All Categories

< September 2026 >

Eastern

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3 12:00 PM Policy and Lec	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 3:30 PM SPARK and You	11	12
13	14 1:00 PM Student Parent	15 2:00 PM Explore the Ne 2:30 PM Student Parent	16 3:00 PM National Studen	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 3:00 PM Protecting Preg	24 2:00 PM New America F	25	26

Submit an Event

Share your upcoming events related to pregnant and parenting students! (Note that inclusion does not constitute endorsement)

Submit

Submit an Event

Event Title *

Event Title

Event Location *

Event Location

Event Start Time

2026-09-08 12:00 AM

Event End Time

2026-09-08 12:00 AM

Event Description *

Event Description

Event Image

Upload one JPG or PNG, smaller than 2mb

Choose File

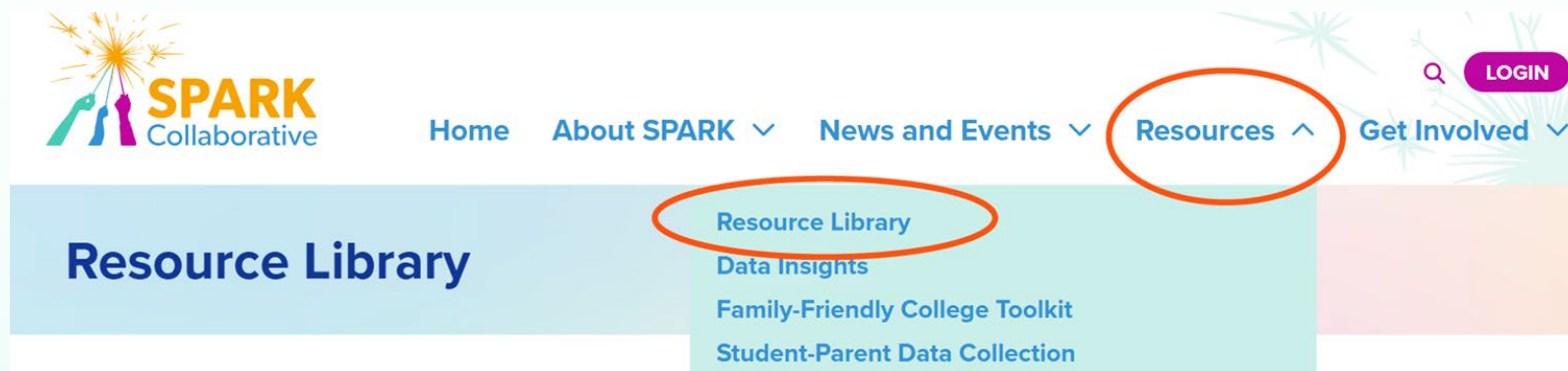
No file chosen

Event Categories

Select a category

Submit

Easy Connection Point: Resources



Filter Resources

TYPE

Select ▼

LOCATION

Select ▼

SPARK ORIGINAL

Select ▼

SEARCH

Search

Apply

Join Us for More Resources

SPARK members can annotate and discuss resources across the community, as well as being the first to know when new resources are released!

Sign Up

Submit a Resource

Click the button below to submit a resource for consideration in this library.

Submit

Easy Connection Points: Newsletter

Newsletters

All

In the News

Events

Newsletters

Submit your news!

Fill out this short form

Getting in gear for the new school year

This National Breastfeeding Month, we uplift student parents who breastfeed, chestfeed, or pump while pursuing their education. Institutions can join the celebration by refreshing their lactation spaces, ensuring rooms and locks remain accessible and functional, keeping refrigerators well-maintained, using a sign-in sheet to support shared-space coordination and better understand usage, and adding them to campus maps so student parents can find them easily. We celebrate institutions that recognize this month and create welcoming spaces where student parents can feed their children while pursuing their academic goals! Consider these resources: [an interactive lactation law map](#), [pumping break guides for employees and students](#), [model lactation policy resources](#), and [the Pregnant Scholar's free legal helpline](#).

We're excited to share some BIG NEWS! SPARK has released a new resource:

August 2026 SPARK Update

The New Family-Friendly College Toolkit Is Here! Plus, Get Ready for National Student Parent Month



July is for sunshine

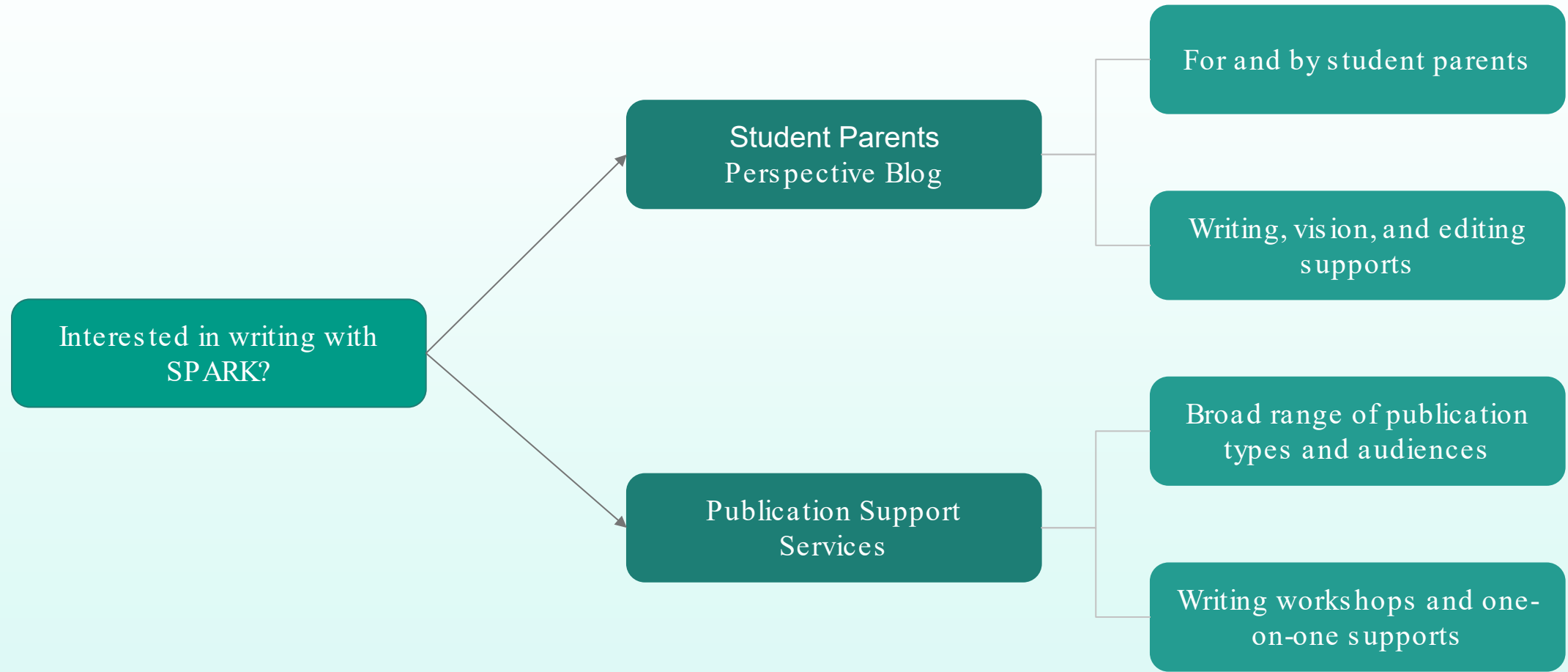
Summer may bring sunshine and backyard barbecues, but for student parents it can also mean juggling child care, summer classes, work schedules, and feeding maps to

July 2026 SPARK Update

Breakout Room Time

- Publication Support Services
- Constellation

Publication Support Services



Student-Parent Perspectives Blog

- For current and recent student parents
- Open format for sharing ideas, experiences, lived expertise, etc. If long-form writing, pieces should be 1200 words or less
- Contact within 2 weeks for brief meet and conference
- Request for post within 2 weeks of meeting, but flexible



studentparentaction.org/resources/for-student-parents/student-parent-perspectives

Student-Parent Action through Research Knowledge

We are a values-driven, action-oriented, big-tent community empowering parents pursuing ambitious education goals. SPARK is led by champions from the Urban Institute, The

[Resource Library](#)[Data Insights](#)[Family-Friendly College Toolkit](#)[Student-Parent Data Collection](#)[Constellations and Networks](#)[Publication Support Services](#)[Legislative Tracker and Policy Resources](#)[Meeting Student Parents' Basic Needs](#)[California AB 2881 Webpage Database \(Archived\)](#)[For Student Parents](#)

Resources For Student Parents

Student Parent Perspectives

Aligning with SPARK's mission of fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and amplifying student parents' and caregivers' voices, we're dedicated to illuminating promising practices and building bridges between institutions supporting student parents while recognizing the challenges that persist.

[Check Out Our Blog](#)

Specific Student Parent Publishing Opportunities

Current and recent student parents are welcome to propose blog post ideas for our Student Parent Perspectives Blog! We accept blog ideas through the interest form found on our Publication Support Services page.

[Interested in writing for the blog? Click here!](#)

Publication Support Services

- Types of supports
- The intake process
- Goal setting
- Ongoing support / community building
- Questions?

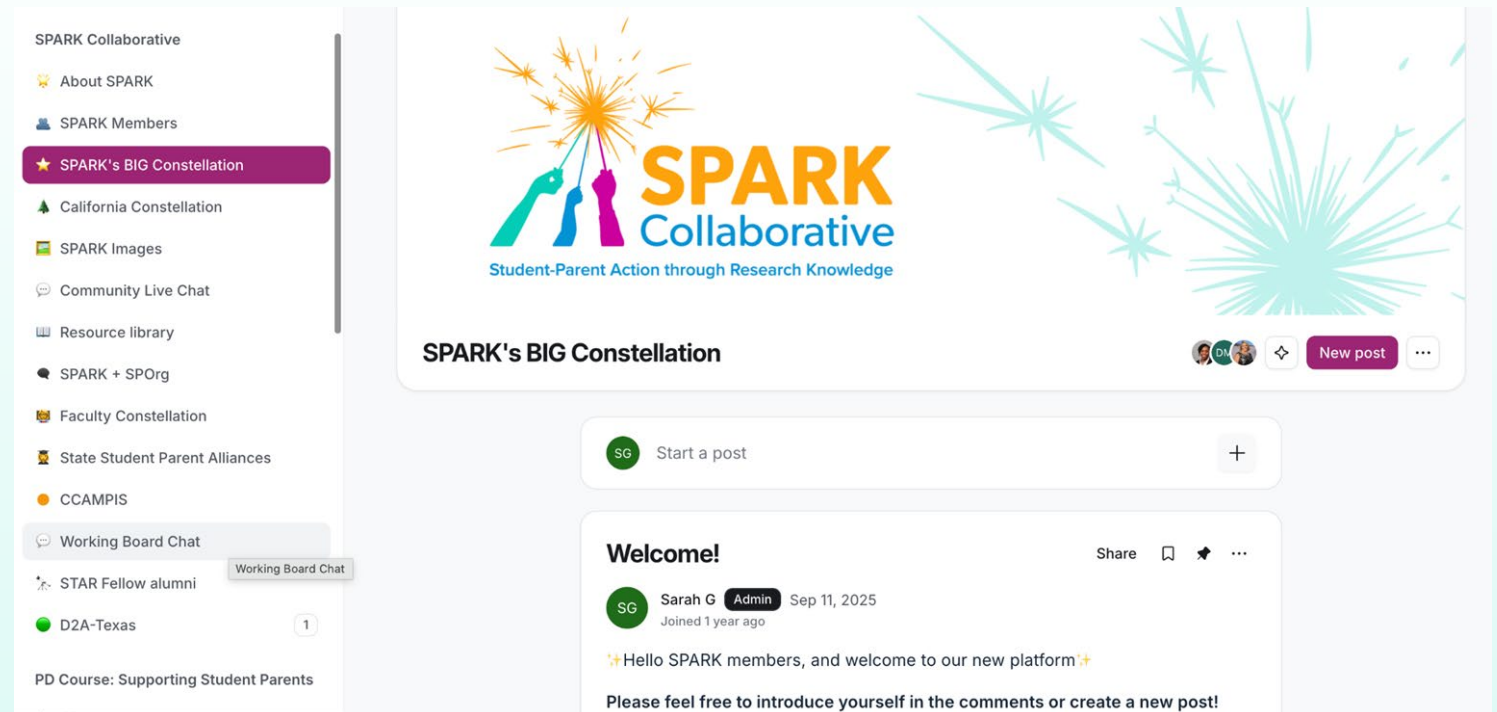
Upcoming writing workshop
Monday, Sept 28, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern

SCAN ME



Constellations

- Virtual discussion space on Circle platform
- “Constellations” are groups based on topic or affiliation
- Members can upload photos and other resources
- Open to all SPARK members!



Family-Friendly College Toolkit

- New, updated, interactive version of the earlier Family-Friendly Campus Toolkit
- Free for anyone! Geared toward college teams
- Learn more at our upcoming session:

Tuesday, Sept 15, 2026, 2:00 PM Eastern



Stay Connected

Sign Up to Become a SPARK Member: studentparentaction.org/join-us

Publications Support Services:
studentparentaction.org/resources/publication-support-services

Join a Constellation: studentparentaction.org/networking

Follow us!

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/spark-collaborative-student-parents/
Instagram: @spark_collab