

The Caregiver Lens™

Student Caregiver Programs

Campus keynotes · faculty & staff training · policy and identification-pathway advisory

THE PROBLEM

Your caregiver students drop out at nearly *twice the rate* — and only one in three ever tells a faculty member or advisor. *I was one of them.*

PROGRAMS

- **Keynote — "The Student You Can't See"**
For student success events, orientation, first-gen programs, or conferences. The Chronicle-documented story, told by the person who lived it.
- **Faculty & staff workshop**
Training faculty to recognize and respond to caregiver students — before a rigid attendance policy becomes the reason a 3.0 student disappears.
- **Policy & practice advisory**
Syllabus statements, attendance flexibility, identification pathways, and referral design — concrete changes, not sentiment.
- **Student caregiver session**
A session for caregiver students themselves — the room where "you are not alone" becomes retention.

Campus keynote	From \$2,500
Keynote + faculty workshop	From \$5,000
Full campus engagement	From \$7,500
Delivery	On-campus or virtual

THE DATA

2× the dropout rate

Over half of caregiver students leave without a degree within six years — vs. 29% of dependent students.

5 million, mostly hidden

~5M U.S. student caregivers. 7 in 10 say caregiving hurts their coursework. Only 1 in 3 tells faculty or an advisor.

Strong students, lost anyway

More than half hold a 3.0+ GPA. Ability isn't the problem — invisibility is.

Retention is revenue

Each retained student represents \$10K–\$40K+ in annual tuition against a \$2,500–\$7,500 engagement.

THE METHOD

The Emotional Interpreter

Reading the unspoken need — recognizing the student who will never self-identify.

Slow Down to Decide

For faculty: the pause between a rigid policy and a student's exit. What to ask before the grade drops.

The Dignity-First Lens

Support pathways students will actually use — designed so asking for help doesn't feel like exposure.

WHY ANDREW

He has lived every chapter of this story. Andrew Rahal was the Cal State Northridge student receiving a D in a 9 a.m. class — not for lack of ability, but because he had already fed, bathed, and safeguarded his grandmother before running out the door. The Chronicle of Higher Education opened its reporting on student-caregiver dropout risk with him. He left CSUN, returned at The New School, and finished his degree while coordinating her care from across the country. For ten years he was her full-time caregiver through advanced Alzheimer's — UCLA-trained, versed in the Montessori dementia method — a decade The Guardian documented in a four-year photo essay. He isn't citing the data on caregiver students. He is the data — the dropout risk, the comeback, and the proof they can be kept.