



*Developing Networks for  
Students Experiencing Homelessness*



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# Agenda:

- Definitions
- Contacts
- Stats and Needs
- Case Study

# Definitions



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# Vocab

- McKinney-Vento Act
- Continuum of Care
- Homeless definitions
- Point-in-Time Counts



# McKinney-Vento, 2009

- Consolidates three separate HUD homeless assistance programs into a Continuum of Care (CoC).
- Continuum of Care goals: quality, capacity, performance, resource coordination
- Includes a community-wide homeless management information system and service planning process.

# McKinney-Vento, 2009; homeless definition

- See full text and definitions here:

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessAssistanceActAmendedbyHEARTH.pdf>

- Specific detail on:
  - Currently homeless
  - Imminently homeless
  - Domestic violence
  - Not including incarcerated humans

# Currently homeless

An individual or family who:

- lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence;
- has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for sleeping accommodation for humans (car, park, abandoned building, bus/train station, airport, camping ground)
- is living in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements
- is returning to one of the above from an institutionalization

# Imminently homeless

- Will imminently lose their housing they:
  - Own
  - Rent
  - Or live in without paying rent
- No subsequent residence identified
- Lacks the resources to obtain other permanent housing
- Credible evidence



# Domestic violence provision

Fleeing, or is attempting to flee:

- Domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking
- Other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in current housing situation
- No other residence/resources to obtain other permanent housing.

# Suggested Contacts/Resources



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# CoC Contacts

- <https://www.hud.gov/states/illinois/homeless/cocontacts>

- **Sample:**

## **Central Illinois HUD Continuum of Care**

Path Crisis Center

201 E. Grove

Bloomington, IL 61701

Call (309) 828-1022 for information

Counties are DeWitt, Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Kendall, Livingston, Logan, Mason, Menard, McLean, Piatt, and Vermilion.

# Folks at your campus may already have CoC contacts

- Counseling
- Adult Education
- Continuing Education
- Disability Services
- Dual credit liaisons at high schools
  - “homeless education liaisons” responsible for ensuring identification, school enrollment, attendance, and opportunities for students experiencing homelessness

# Stats & Needs



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# Point in Time Counts

- Every year, one night
- Last 10 days in January
- Count of sheltered and unsheltered
- Does not include imminently homeless

# Point in Time, January 2018

- 553,000 in US
- 65% in sheltered locations; 35% in unsheltered locations
- 1% increase from 2017
- Slight decrease in # of children and in # of veterans
- Increase in # of unsheltered

# Demographics

- 67% are unaccompanied adults
- 20% are children
- 71% are over the age of 24
- 9% are between the ages of 18 and 24



# Demographics (continued)

- Minorities are over-represented:
  - African Americans significantly overrepresented (40% of homeless vs 13% of general US population)
  - Hispanic/Latino also overrepresented (22% of homeless population vs 18% of general US population)
- Men are majority:
  - 60% male, 39% female, 1% trans/gender non-conforming

# Students experiencing homelessness

- Economic issues:
  - Community's lack of safe, clean, affordable housing
  - Poverty
  - Unemployment/underemployment
  - Single parent/single income

# Students experiencing homelessness (continued)

- Security issues:
  - Domestic violence
  - Shelter policies/lack of shelters/shelter security
- Health issues:
  - Physical health, medical bills, medication cost/access
  - Mental health, medical bills, medication cost/access
  - Substance abuse

# College Resources

- PELL/MAP application assistance
- Scholarships
- Lending libraries (books, tools, uniforms, etc)
- Transportation
- Counseling/Resources
- Career Services
- Computer labs/Library/Writing Center/Lockers
- Disability Services
- Food pantry

# Case Study



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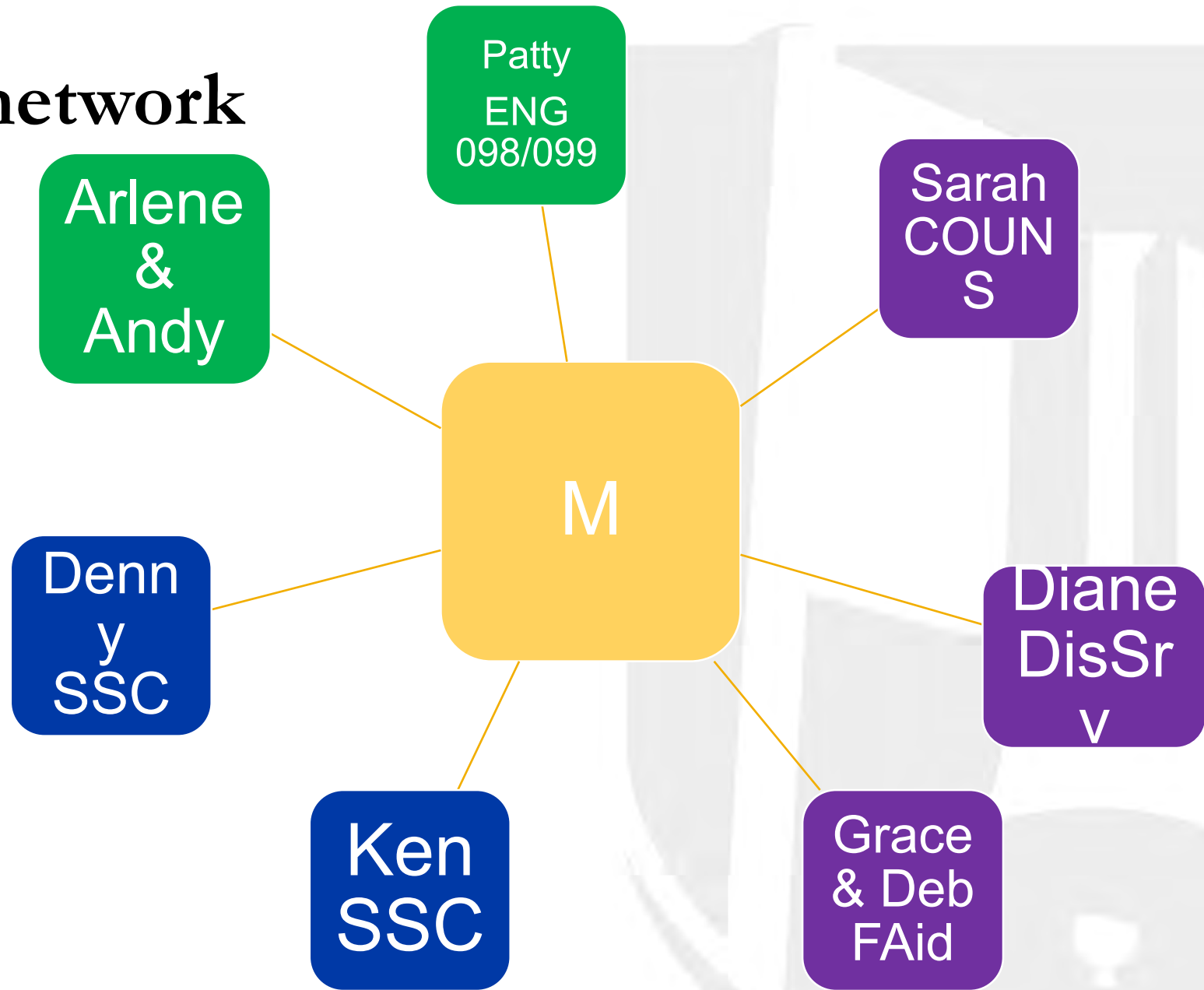
# Meet Mary

- High school graduate
- Traditional age
- White
- Working part time in service industry
- Sister also attended community college

# Risk factors

- Couch homeless/Imminent homeless
- Diagnosed but undisclosed disability
- Low support from family
- Low income
- Introvert
- Lowest level of developmental ENG and RDG

# Navigation network





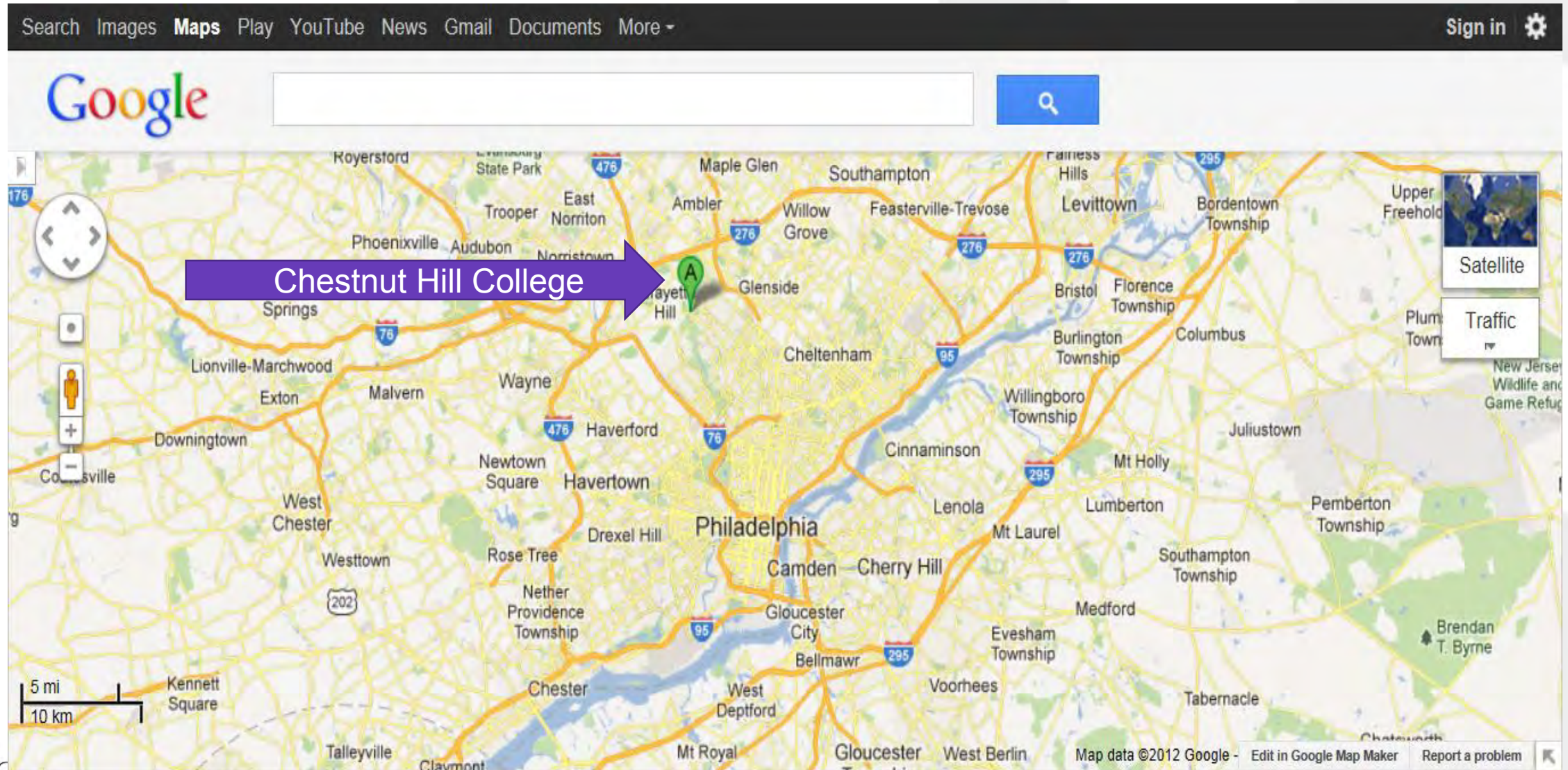
# Services

- Tutoring/Writing Center
- Financial Aid/Scholarship assistance
- Referrals: Mental health/housing/shelter/food pantry
- Disability Services
- Place to meet with other students
- Transfer advice

# Chestnut Hill College



# Where in the world...

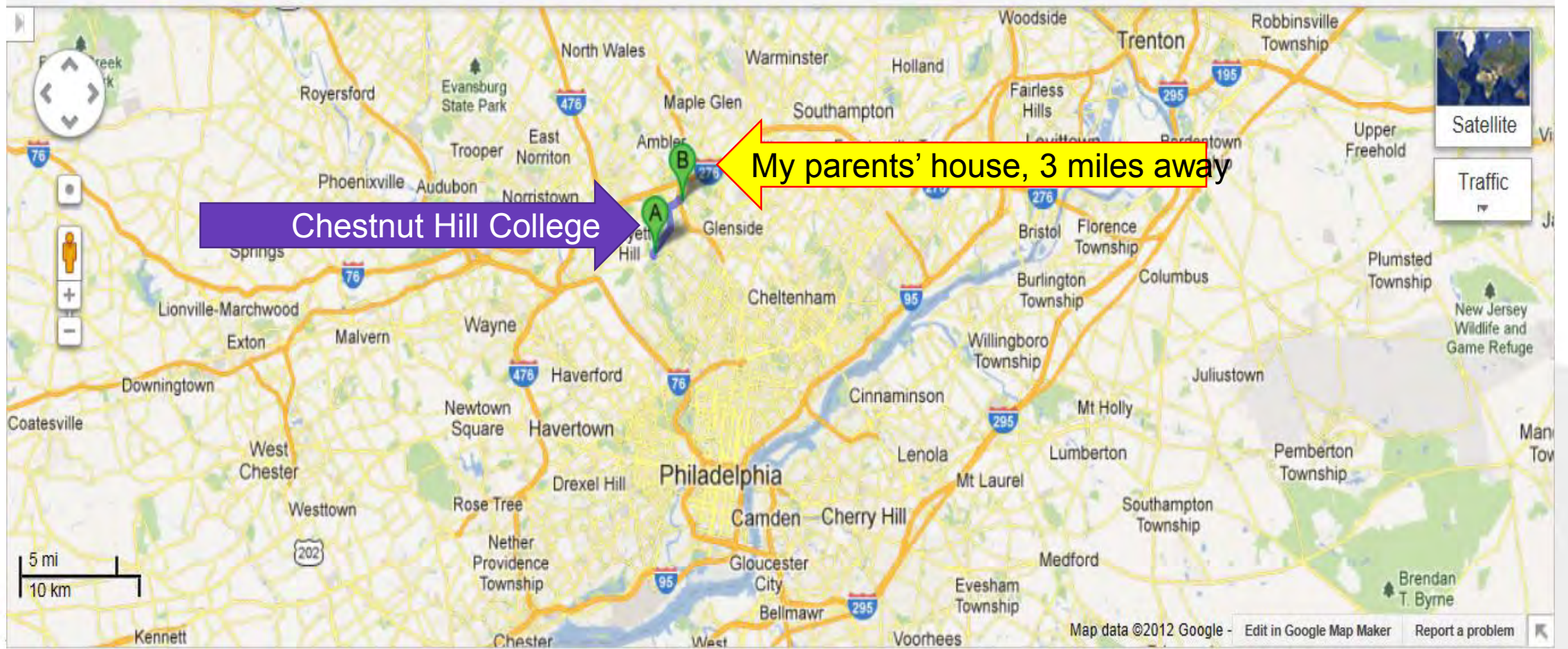
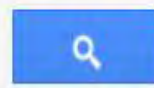


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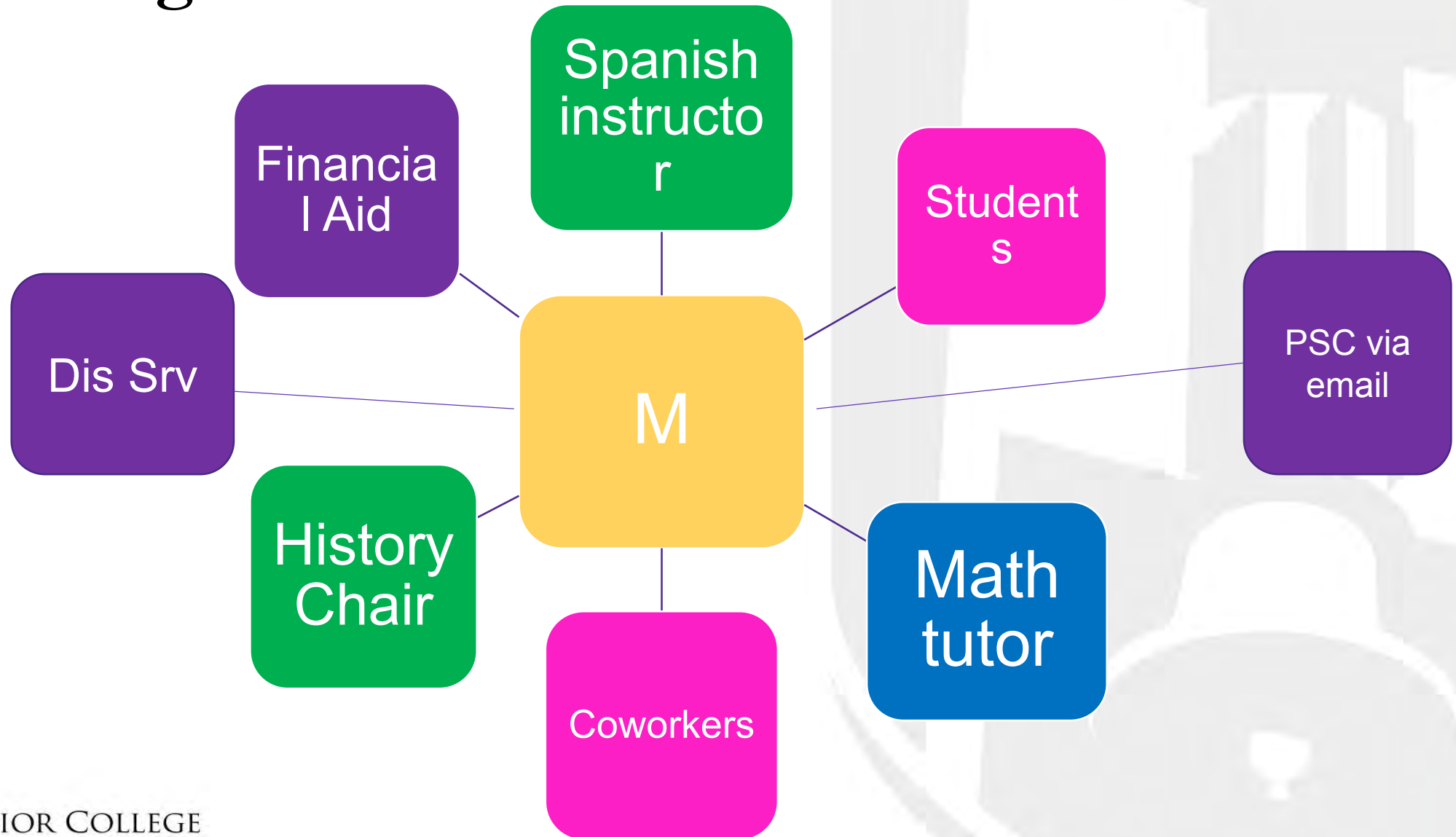


# Adjustments

- Life with retirees
- Academics
- Work
- Homesickness
- Different support needed



# Redefining the network



# Next Chapter

- Working retail
- Grad school
- Teaching



# Lessons Learned

- This work is relational
- Bureaucratic navigation=student success
- Computerized alert systems vs human alert systems
- Customized support services for situational responses
- Policies that seem friendly but aren't



# Summary

- Definitions
- Contacts
- Stats and Needs
- Case Study



# What questions do you have for me?

## Contact info:

Patty Zuccarello

Dean, Career and Technical Education

Joliet Junior College

[pzuccare@jjc.edu](mailto:pzuccare@jjc.edu)



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