

Strategizing to Support First-Generation Student Success on Your Campus

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Session Overview

- Start with “Why”
- Overview
 - Completing the Cycle (Redlands)
 - Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program (UF)
- Strategies and Self-Assessment
- Q & A



Why?

- For first-generation college students (FGCS), going to college is a self-less act
- 25% on new students are FGCS
- 11% of FGCS earn degrees in six years
- FGCS are less likely to ask for help
- Eliminate systemic barriers to success

Sources: Education Advisory Board (EAB), U.S. News World Report





Program Overview

Completing the Cycle
University of Redlands

Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars Program
University of Florida



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Strategy 1: Know the first-generation college student demographic and needs for your institution

Define

Identify

Track



Strategy 2: Connect first-generation students to the appropriate resources

Resource Awareness (financial, career, academic, social, etc)

Peer Connections

Faculty/Administrative Connections

Academic and Co-Curricular Alignment (College - to - Career)

Family/Guardian Inclusion




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Strategy 3: Empower first-generation college student, faculty, and staff

Information

Understanding

Communication

Collaboration





Open Forum

In groups of 2-3, share what else could be included in the strategies.

Resources:

EAB – Transforming the FGCS Experience

Lumina Foundation – Beyond Financial Aid (low-income focus)



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Questions?

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SAVE THE
DATE

March 11-15,
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Institutional Assessment

A - My institution does this very well for first-generation college students

B - My institution does this but not specifically for first-generation college students

C - My institution does not do this well

D - My institution does not do this at all

Strategy 1: Know the first-generation college student demographic and needs for your institution

- My institution has a clear definition of a first-generation college student
- My institution has identified the number of first-generation students.
- My institution tracks first-generation students retention rates from first year to second year
- My institution tracks the four and six year graduation rate of first-generation students and compares it to those of other segments of students.
- My institution tracks first-generation student usage of institutional resources
- My institution tracks how many first-generation students are working, how many hours they are working and when they are working.
- My institution has commitment from top administrators to support first-generation students
- My institution understands the financial implications of student retention and success (return on investment)

Strategy 2: Connect first-generation students to the appropriate resources

- My institution gives first-generation students a clear visual roadmap showing them where to go to receive support services
- My institution has programs that facilitate student/faculty interaction through research, volunteer, or professional activities (ex. McNair Scholars, advocacy programs)
- My institution works with all incoming students to match their interests and skills to potential careers.
- My institution provides an orientation or specialized transition program for first-generation students
- My institution facilitates a peer mentoring program for first-generation college students
- My institution provides workshops to help first-generation students navigate college experiences
- My institution provides resources for families/guardians in understanding college
- My institution provides specialized career readiness initiatives for first-generation college students
- Where appropriate, students at my institution complete the FAFSA and have structured assistance in completing the forms.
- My institution provides or partners to provide financial counseling services to students and their families.
- My institution has a well-publicized emergency assistance program for first-generation college students who encounter episodic but disruptive life events that hinder their ability to attend school

Strategy 3: Empower first-generation college students, faculty, and staff

- My institution provides information and education to faculty and student services professionals to ensure that all campus stakeholders understand the experiences of first-generation students
- My institution regularly communicates to faculty and staff about the programs and services available to support first-generation students and systematically shares this information with students.
- Offices, departments and programs across my institution collaborate on an ongoing basis to improve, expand, and offer services tailored to the first-generation student experience
- Faculty and staff understand how to both support students navigation of the "hidden curriculum" and understand campus policies and procedures (ex. bursar/registrar/financial affairs....breaking down acronyms, explaining what offices do, explaining why office hours are important, etc.
- My institution provides a platform for students to share their voice, concerns, ideas, and experiences

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