DEVELOPING A FIRST GEN MIND-SET ON YOUR CAMPUS

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*First-generation college student
First Generation Institute: For Faculty and Staff at UCLA

UCLA

Save the Date

MAY 4TH & 5TH
9AM - 2PM
LUSKIN CONFERENCE CENTER

Over 30% of UCLA students will be among the first generation in their family to earn a bachelor's degree.

Registration will begin on March 27

The Institute is intended to bring together faculty and staff to identify best practices and to develop strategies to better support our robust first-generation student population.

For more information, contact First Year Experience at firstyearexperience@orl.ucla.edu

www.firsttogo.ucla.edu
OVERVIEW

• Who are first-generation college students?
• What are the common characteristics of this population?
• Time for a new narrative!
• A First Gen mindset at CSULA
DEFINITIONS MATTER!

Students whose parents have not completed a bachelor’s degree (federal definition).
MORE THAN A THIRD OF CSU STUDENTS ARE FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS.

The California State University website
<table>
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Source: College Scorecard/NSLDS.

Note: Only includes students receiving Title IV aid, excludes specialty colleges.

* These two colleges are now UT-Rio Grande Valley as of Sept. 1.
GRADUATION RATES

• While 42 percent of students whose parents attended college graduated within fours years, only 27 percent of first-generation students graduated within four years.

• While 64 percent of students whose parents attended college graduated within six years, only 50 percent of first-generation students earned their degrees in that time frame.

• “Completing College: Assessing Graduation Rates at Four-Year Institutions,” Higher Education Research Institute, 2011
First-generation college students are not a monolithic group; however,

There are some shared experiences, traits, and patterns of behavior
ENROLLMENT PATTERNS AND CHARACTERISTICS:

• More likely to live off-campus, attend a college close to home, attend school part-time, and work full-time while in college (Saenz et al., 2007)

• Likely to be “non-traditional,” i.e., commuter, returning, transfer, foster, married, etc. “Student” may be a peripheral identity due to other responsibilities

• Some students (particularly from immigrant backgrounds) may serve as cultural brokers or translators

• Often (but not always) low-income
PSYCHOSOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS:

• Experience marginality (also referred to as “border living” or being in “limbo”)

• May feel separated from family and friends in home community as a result of upward mobility and exposure to a new campus culture; may feel lonely, alienated and isolated

• May feel ambivalent about academic success, which may lead to “survivor’s guilt”

• May experience “impostor syndrome” or unwarranted feelings of inadequacy
• May believe (rightly or wrongly) that other students know more about campus life; “fish out of water” complex

• “Golden Child” – expectations not just for the student, but the family and the community

• May view college in vocational terms and may gravitate toward “practical” majors like business or engineering, rather than the arts or humanities
Research and literature frames the first-gen experience in terms of "disadvantages," "challenges" and struggles.
STRENGTHS:

• Strong sense of pride
• Independent and self-reliant (which may lead to delays in seeking support)
• Persistence, tenacity, high motivation
• Resiliency
• Multi-lingual/code-switching
• Resourceful
ALL LIVES MATTER
INSTITUTIONAL CULTURE
• Foster opportunities for FG students’ to develop a sense of belonging

• Provide programs and spaces that allow FG students opportunities to develop meaningful networks

• Offer programs that provide FG students targeted support in a timely manner
EMPOWERMENT

• Take a holistic view of FG students and help them develop an awareness of their strengths

• Provide opportunities for FG students to become involved in and out of the classroom

• Respect and value the FG students’ experiences and knowledge
• Develop policies and programs that support the institution’s FG students

• Reduce barriers resulting from lack of information, cost of participation, or inflexible/inconvenient hours
A Hope in the Unseen

An American Odyssey from the Inner City to the Ivy League

Ron Suskind

REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION

1vyG
8 Ivy Leagues accept 1st-generation immigrant with exceptional writing talent

By STACY CHEN
Apr 6, 2017, 6:29 PM ET
What it means to be your family’s first college student

First-generation college students often face more challenges than their peers, financially and culturally. At Ivy League schools, the difference can be even more dramatic. The New York Times explores how a conference at Brown University has...
CAL STATE GRADUATES!

FIRST GENERATION

EVERY FIRST HAS A STORY.

WWW.FIRSTGENERATIONFILM.COM
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FIRST TO GO PRESENTS:

First-Gen Awareness Week!
Spring 2017
FIRST-GEN VOICES
CREATIVE & CRITICAL NARRATIVES ON THE 1ST GEN EXPERIENCE
First-Gen Travels
A Panel and Q&A Session on the First-Gen Study Abroad Experience

When: October 10th, 2016
Time: 6:15 - 7:30 pm
Where: ARC Back Lobby

Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

you’ll never know until you go.

Co-sponsored by Study Abroad and First To Go
FIRST GEN

CELEBRATING THE FIRSTS

ARE YOU FIRST-GEN?

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017
10 AM - 2 PM
Sombrilla, UTSA Main Campus
FIRST-GEN FRIDAYS

The Division of Strategic Enrollment Management presents First-Gen Fridays: An opportunity for first-generation college students to meet each other, faculty, and staff from around the university. Mark your calendars and join us each month to network and learn about relevant opportunities and resources designed to enhance student success.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
hosted from 3-4 p.m.

August 26, 2016
Welcome to VCU! Let’s get acquainted!

September 30, 2016
Learning Support Resources at VCU.

October 14, 2016
TRIO and You!

November 11, 2016
Community engagement: how to get involved and give back

December 9, 2016
Mindfulness and Artfulness

February 10, 2017
Summer Studies: Why you should chill with us during the summer!

March 17, 2017
Preparing for the fall semester: Do the Math!

April 14, 2017
Celebrating your first year and looking towards your future!

Connect with your VCU community. Plan to attend First-Gen Fridays.

Visit www.nsfp.vcu.edu for more details and event locations.

VCU

Division of Strategic Enrollment Management
The First-Gen Blend

A Delicious Blend of Vanilla, Strawberry, and Mango in Honor of LMU’s First Generation Students!
higher education and first-generation students
Cultivating Community, Voice, and Place for the New Majority

rashné rustom jehangir
FIRST GENERATION AWARENESS!
First-gen advocates need to share their own stories with students

Recognize that students have intersecting identities

Challenge assumptions about a linear education pathway

~Saby Labor & Kayley Robsham
THANK YOU!

• lreasemiles@orl.ucla.edu
• Facebook group: Empowering First-Generation College Students