Listening to the Voices of First Generation Students

Krista Navarrette and Marlene Sanchez
Framework for Today’s Conversation

Introduction: Video on first-generation students

Positionality: Why we chose this topic

Research: About First Generation College Students

Change in Perspective: Asset based approach

Panelist: Experiences and perceptions of first generation students on our campus

Academic Advisors: Role in supporting first generation students
Intro: First-Generation Video

https://youtu.be/l7qKOGZtXi8
Positionality

Marlene Sanchez
Senior Academic Advisor for University College
M.A. Educational Leadership (UNM)

Krista Navarrette:
Senior Academic Advisor for Arts & Sciences
M.A. Educational Administration (UNL)
Federal Definition of a First-generation college student

- A student neither of whose natural or adoptive parents received a baccalaureate degree; or
- A student who, prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, and whose supporting parent did not receive a baccalaureate degree.
- An individual who, prior to the age of 18, did not regularly reside with or receive support from a natural or an adoptive parent.

- 1/3 of undergraduate students

Various identities and characteristics

- Most common characteristic is low SES
- Minority Students
- Older and non native speakers
- Family expectations
Research on First-Generation Students

Less academically prepared
- Remedial courses
- Lower ACT/SAT scores
- Degree aspirations & less likely to go to graduate school
- Twice as likely to drop out
- Less likely to be engaged
- Less institutional knowledge
Change in Perspective

- Family importance 47%
- Motivation (Better life and financial stability)
- Increase in degree aspiration ~67%
- An emerging literature suggests that **targeting student strengths**, not weaknesses, may have a positive effect on first-generation student retention rates.
- How can we target students’ strengths?
Panelist

Brenda Ramirez
Elias Lopez
Jaen Ugalde
Vanessa Chavez
Selina Villa
Academic Advisor Role

- Consider broader issues (intersectionality)
- Provide institutional knowledge
- Explaining course structure
- Defining expectations
- Working with Admission to help identify the population
- Knowing your resources
- Working with Student Affairs Advisors
- Retention increases by 13% for every one on one advisement meeting
References


Questions