Advising First Generation Students

Fall 2019 Advisor Institute
Definition used for this workshop

- Parents did not receive a college degree.
- Definitions can vary by program or study.
1st Gen students might also be:

- Students of color
- Typically from disenfranchised populations
- Come from low income households
- Start at a community colleges
First Year Experience

- May experience lower sense of belonging (Cole et al.)
- Students need to build their college knowledge (Kezar & Kitchen)
- Staff/Faculty should link students to support programs (Kezar & Kitchen)
- Students should not be expected to access support on their own (Hallett et al.)
  - Normalize the use of services
  - Have a caring environment
“Challenges and Realizations of First-Generation Students Who Navigated through Transfer Momentum Points”

- **Challenges**
  - Limited income
  - Feeling isolated and alone
  - Setbacks and obstacles (stop outs)
  - Lack of motivation early in college career

- **1st Gen student realizations**
  - Developing financial awareness
  - Utilizing support systems and resources
  - Staying focused and hopeful
  - Finding their drive
Advisors Role in 1st Gen Success

- Validate their presence in college
- Let students know they matter
- Encourage campus involvement and peer involvement
- Help them create a space within UNM
  - Colleges & Departments are their home within UNM
Advisors Role in 1st Gen Success

- Congratulate students on good grades
- Provide points to help focus and motivate students
- Connect to & normalize use of resources/services
- Use soft referrals to others in your campus network
- Be a role model if you are also 1st Gen
Sources


- https://firstgen.naspa.org

