First Gen Student Initiatives (a) Illinois

March 11, 2024 Illinois Student Assistance Commission Ist Annual First Gen Symposium

Welcome & Introductions



Domonic Cobb Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success, Inclusion & Belonging



Kimberly Alexander-Brown Executive Director, Office of Minority Student Affairs and Director, TRIO Programs

Welcome & Introductions



Focus Areas: Identity-based Programming, Alumni Engagement, Study Abroad, and Career Coaching

She/Her/Ella First Gen | UIUC Alum | Multilingual

Jennifer Mendez Director, First-Generation Student Initiatives & OMSA Leadership Team

Symposium Alignment

- Actively seeking to increase belongingness among first-generation college students
- **Developing events** tailored to first-generation students
- Understand the power of storytelling behind first-generation student success and graduation

Today's Focus

• Illinois Highlights

- Systematic & Evidence-based Efforts to Increase Sense of Belonging
- Event Planning
- Storytelling & Continued Engagement

Increasing Sense of Belonging



First Scholars Network Journey



The #FirstScholarsNetwork is a journey for institutions of higher education, a national scaling model that brings together higher education leaders from around the country to share data, model innovation, and scale impact to first-gen student support

TRANSFORMING YOUR INSTITUTION WITH FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS.

Credit: https://firstgen.naspa.org/programs-and-services/first-scholars-network

Continuous Improvement Example

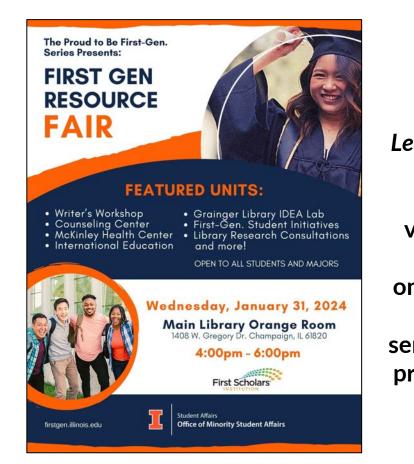
Institution Focus Area:

• Reducing graduation gaps by 2030

Goals:

- Expand knowledge and participation for first-generation support services.
- Improve campus process for identifying and serving first-generation students

Event Planning



Student Affairs Office of Minority Student Affairs The Proud to be First-Gen. Series Presents: Leading efforts **Graduate School Affirmation Workshop** In collaboration with the TRIO McNair Program & Gies College of Business SCAN ME virtual only February 21st, 2024 5pm - 7pm BIF 3rd Floor - Room 3039 515 E. Gregory Drive Champaign, IL 61820 once per year firstgen.illinois.edu semester-long Free food provided programming First Scholars

from



Storytelling & Continued Engagement

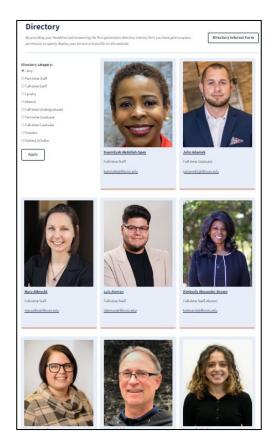
First Generation Online Community Directory

Student Affairs First-Generation Students

First-Generation Directory Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in joining! This directory is aimed at creating a centralized place online where the Illinois campus resources, events/programs, and locate mentors who also identify as First-Generation.





Campus Highlights Revisited

- Steering Committee Engaged
 Working Groups
- New Director Hired
- Proud to be First-Gen Series
- First-gen Website Launched
- Campus level expansion of National First-Gen Day Celebration, November 8th

Steering Committee & Collaborators

- Office of the Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Office of Minority Student Affairs & TRIO
- Chez Veterans Center
- School of Social Work
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- Student Success, Inclusion, and Belonging (SSIB) Assessment
- Faculty Sociology
- Women's Resources Center
- First Gen Student Initiatives
- Student representatives Undergraduate & Graduate

Special thank you to ISAC's First Generation Scholars Network for its continued support of our on-campus programming particularly with the many ongoing changes with FAFSA!

Student Success Advisor

First Generation Student Initiatives Office of Minority Student Affairs





Thank you for your time.

Open Q&A Time

firstgen@illinois.edu

firstgen.illinois.edu



