



First Gen Symposium

Monday, March 11, 2024

Opening Remarks

*Beth Groves, Professional Development
Specialist, ISAC;*

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Why are we here today?

- Welcome to ISAC's First Annual First Gen Symposium!
- We believe in the importance of telling first generation stories and connecting first gen students with each other and organizations around them
- Consider your own why
 - Why are you here today?
 - Why are you drawn to supporting first generation students?
- Consider what you hope to learn from today's symposium

What is the First Generation Scholars Network?



- Created to help in the transition to college
 - Provides resources, events, mentoring, and tools for the first year of college
- Students can join the First Generation Scholars Network to:
 - Connect with mentors
 - Join “check-in” events with other first gen students
 - Find first gen programs on their campuses

Join the Network

Ready to join?

You can join using our online form

JOIN NOW!

Have questions? Email us at

ISAC.FirstGen@illinois.gov

What does it mean to be first gen?

- “First generation” has many definitions depending on who you ask
- The Center for First Generation Student Success defines first gen as: a student whose parents did not complete a 4-year college or university degree
- Students may question if they are first gen if their older siblings went to college, a family member started a degree but did not finish, or if their parent obtained a degree in another country
- ISAC defines first generation as a student whose parents did not obtain a postsecondary degree

First Gen Stories

- If you are first generation or know someone who is, consider how it felt to navigate the college-going process
 - Did you know you were first gen, or did someone tell you?
- Consider how we can build an inclusive environment in our schools and community-based organizations to help support first generation students in their postsecondary and career plans