FIRST GEN COLLECTIVE

Read

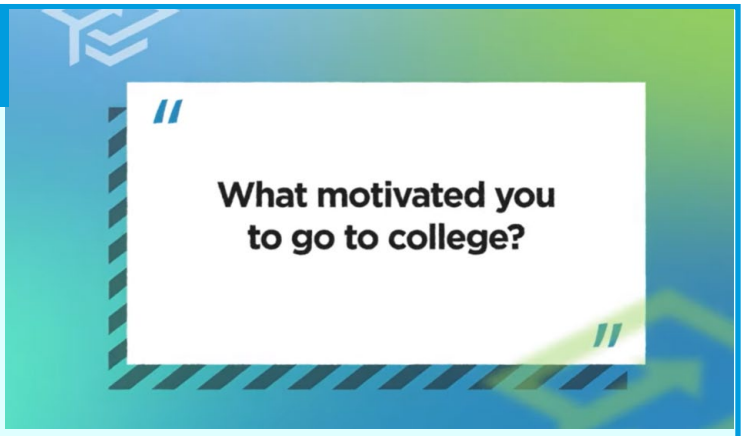
[It Starts With Access: How Institutions Are Supporting First Generation Students]

Understanding financial aid is one of the biggest challenges for first generation students. Beyond simply providing financial aid, some institutions are creating programs with wraparound services such as college life skills coaching, peer mentorship, financial aid advising, and more.

Watch

[What Motivated You to Go to College?]

Listen to ISACorps alumna and first generation college graduate Leslie Vizuet share what – and who – motivated her to pursue education after high school.



ISAC College Minute® Video

Start A Conversation

Use these questions to spark meaningful conversations and better understand students' perspectives:

Low-risk: What excites you about going to college?

Encourages positive, easy-to-share thoughts about hopes and interests.

High-risk: In what ways do you think going to college might change you?

Prompts deeper reflection on personal growth and identity; best in a trusting environment.

Listen

First Up: Brought to You by ISAC

Episode 39: Combating Barriers

Hosts Brian White and Jasmine Jetton-Gonzales discuss issues commonly faced by first-generation college students such as Imposter Syndrome, balancing family responsibilities, financial and mental health struggles, and helpful tips for how practitioners can better support first generation students.



Nugget of Wisdom

"Every student brings their own strengths and challenges to their educational journey. Meeting each student where they are can make all the difference."



—Manuel Talavera, ISACorps alumnus, former ISAC Professional Development specialist, and first gen college student

Resources

Glossary of Terms to Know

Terms like "articulation agreement," "CLEP," and "duplicate credit," can be confusing, especially if a student is the first in their family to go to college. Comprehension can be the key to graduating on time. This glossary of terms from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville is a great tool for students and professionals alike to understand jargon used in the world of higher education.

Social Media

First Gen Empower

A nonprofit dedicated to helping first gen, low-income, and immigrant students thrive in their college and career journeys.

Connect

Counselor Response Form

Share any expertise, wisdom, or personal experience you have working with first generation students — or as a first generation student yourself.

First Generation Scholars Network

ISAC
Illinois Student Assistance Commission