Abstract

In 2014, Carolina’s Office of Undergraduate Education in the College of Arts and Sciences received $3 million from the U.S. Department of Education to fund The Finish Line Project, a program for first-generation college students – as well as rural, transfer, and historically under-served students – that includes curricular innovations, outreach and support, and pathways for timely and affordable degree completion. Among the Project’s key strategies are supports designed to encourage the retention and timely graduation of minority male students at the University. At UNC-CH, FGCS who are also minority males are among the least likely to graduate. In spring 2016, a small group of underrepresented minority males convened for a six-week peer coaching series with funding from The Finish Line Project. The goals of the program were to increase students’ network of peers, to connect students with faculty and staff who can support their success, to engage students in academic peer coaching and goal setting practices, and to increase students’ knowledge of and use of resources available to support their success. This poster provides information on the rationale for the program, the program’s structure and activities, outcomes, and next steps for the program as well as an exploratory research study.