First-Generation College Student Community: A Space for Cross-Cultural Interactions

First Year Experience
February 16th-19th, 2019

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Goals

Explore how universities can enhance cross-cultural competency among FGCS by capitalizing on the diversity and lived experiences of FGCS.

Learn about…

• Strengths based initiatives to support first-generation college students intersecting identities;
• Programs to create community among FGCS;
• Creating opportunities for affirming identities and intentional cross-cultural dialogue among FGCS.
FGCS Term and Definition

- Varying definitions
- Umbrella term
- Serves as a proxy for social inequities.
Profile

Cross-Cultural Competence

We must learn to live together as brothers (and sisters) or perish together as fools.” MLK
Institutional Culture

• Academic expectations
• Micro-affirmations
• Affirming students’ identities
• Help students explore and identify their own academic identity
“Student success is the product of thousands of small gestures extended on a daily basis by caring, supportive educators sprinkled throughout the institution who enact a talent development philosophy.” – George Kuh

“Affirming identity is really about trying to create an environment where everyone can see themselves represented and feel welcomed into that environment.” Beverly Tatum
A collaborative learning community developing Carolina Firsts as citizen-leaders. We value diverse perspectives and experiences, community, campus engagement, leadership, collaborative learning and a supportive yet challenging environment.
Carolina Firsts

At UNC-Chapel Hill, we proudly call first-generation college students “Carolina Firsts.” Making up nearly 20% of our undergraduate population, Carolina Firsts are integral to our campus culture, contributing greatly to our diversity and intellectual life.

EXPLORE
PROGRAMS, EVENTS, & RESOURCES

CONNECT
WITH OTHER STUDENTS & FACULTY

CELEBRATE
CAROLINA FIRST SUCCESSES
Pair and Share

• Do you have a mechanism for identifying first-generation college students at your institution?
• Discuss examples of current programs?
• What ideas did we share that are feasible for your campus?
• What ideas for programming do you have for your campus that addresses cultural competency as an outcome?
Action Items

• What ideas do you have that you would like to follow-up on when you return to campus?
• Who might you collaborate with?
• What resources do you need to follow-up on your plan?
• What action steps are you going to take when you return to campus?
Contact Us

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