We Are First-Generation...

But Not Alone!

Michelle McKelvey, University of Arizona
Wendy Bruun, Northern Arizona University

Definition:

NEITHER parent has earned a bachelor’s degree
Differential Outcomes

First-generation students...

- Completed fewer credits and earned lower grades (D’Allegro & Kerns, 2010)
- Retained at lower rates (D’Allegro & Kerns, 2010)
- Attained bachelor’s degree in fewer numbers within 6 years (Pell Institute, 2011)
  - Neither: 54.0% --
  - FG only: 24.9% -29.1%
  - LI only: 24.1% -29.9%
  - FG and LI: 10.9% -43.1%

First-Year Retention Rates

Freshmen @ NAU @ UA

FG -9% FG -5.2%

Transfer @ NAU @ UA

FG -3% FG Not tracked
Graduation Retention Rates

6-year cohort @ NAU @ UA

FG -10% FG -11.7%

Strengths & Success

Alex
NAU Graduate
Biology
Working at a Pet Hospital in Phoenix
Plans to go to Veterinary school

Michelle
NAU Graduate
Bachelors in Social Work
Working as a Social Services Assistant in Seattle
Applying to UW for a master’s degree
Strengths & Success

Rebecca
UA Graduate
Social Psychology
Faculty at UC Santa Barbara
Started 1st gen initiative at the UCSB campus

Amer
UA Graduate
Journalism
Fulbright Scholar in Turkey

University Support and Services
UA Programs

- Arizona Mentors
- ASEMS - T
- Cultural Learning Communities
- First Cats
- Foster for Success
- New Start Summer Program
- Student Support Services/TRiO - STEM (ASEMS)
- UROC (Undergraduate Research Opportunities Consortium)
  - MARC
  - McNair
  - Student Affairs Research (STAR) Program
  - UROC PREP

25% of UA students identify as first-gen

NAU First-Generation Programs

- TRIO Student Support Services (SSS)
- STAR summer bridge
- First Scholars
- Blavin Scholars

46% of first-year students identified as first-gen
NAU First-Generation Programs

- Lumberjack Leaders Institute
- Textbook loan program
- Louie’s Cupboard

40% of the overall student population (all class levels) identified as first-gen

Recommendations for HS & MS Counselors
Building Aspiration for College

Rigorous Coursework & Strong Grades

Gaps Between First-Gen & Their Peers
## Cultural & Social Capital

### Belief in Self
- Achievement Ceremonies
- Enrichment Programs

### Network/Relationship
- Panel of Speakers
- College Mentors

### College Knowledge
- Junior/Senior College Workshops
- College Tours

### Skills to Navigate
- Self-Advocacy Skill Building Workshops

## Cultural Capital - Financial Fit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Available Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fees</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scholarships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td></td>
<td>Loans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room/housing/apt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Work study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal plan/groceries</td>
<td></td>
<td>Summer jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Savings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Family contributions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Student 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>$24,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available funds:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Scholarships</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings/Summer Job</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>$24,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available funds:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Scholarships</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings/Summer Job</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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</table>

### Student 1 - College A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>$26,150</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available funds:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Scholarships</td>
<td>$11,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings/Summer Job</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>$6,730</td>
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</tbody>
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### Student 1 - College B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>$16,484</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available funds:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants/Scholarships</td>
<td>$5,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings/Summer Job</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Balance due</td>
<td>$3,064</td>
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Q & A