



Encouraging Minority & First Generation Students

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What Does “First-Generation” Mean?

- Students who are the first in their families to attend a postsecondary institution
 - Some define it as students whose parents never graduated from a 4-year institution.
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Research has shown that, for first-generation students, the motivation to enroll in college is a deliberate attempt to improve their social, economic, and occupational standing.

Challenges That Hinder Success of First-Generation Students:

■ Conflicting obligations

- Work and family responsibilities, separation from culture in which they grew up, etc

■ Lack of preparation

- Less prepared (socially and academically) for college than are their classmates who come from college-educated families
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More Challenges:

■ Lack of support

- Application preparation, emotional, financial support family cannot give, but may want to

■ False expectations

- Lack of experience with time management, the economic realities of college life, and institutional bureaucracy
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How to Counsel First-Generation Students

- Learn about specific cultures
 - Educate parents through workshops
 - Provide solid financial aid information
 - Have high expectations
 - Provide test prep
 - Walk students through admission process
 - Be aware of special weekends or programs for underrepresented students on campuses
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Strategies continued:

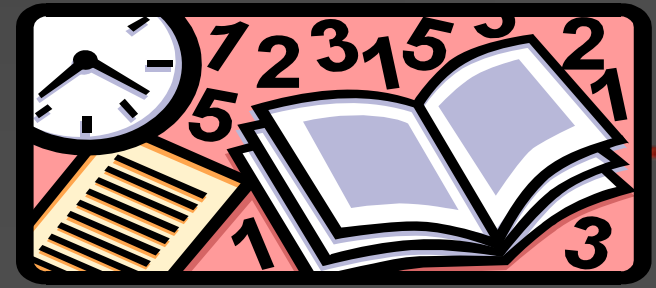
- Campus visits
 - Help your students make contacts on college campuses
 - Help students get information on resources (social orgs, academic counseling, etc.)
 - Facilitate access between parents with similar backgrounds (have panels)
 - Have workshops and individual meetings (on HS & college requirements, etc.)
 - REPEAT STEPS LISTED
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Key Components of Successful Programs:

- Set high standards for faculty & staff
 - Provide personalized attention
 - Facilitate peer support
 - Integrate program with schools (collaboration)
 - Make long-term investments in students
 - Provide scholarship assistance
 - Provide adult role models
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How College Access Programs Can Help:

- Gather data from at-risk population
 - Math, Transcripts, Financial Aid, Remediation
- Use data to assess needs of target population
- Center intervention around needs of target population



Exposure

- To college level work on college campuses gives underrepresented students a vision of themselves undertaking and succeeding in college.
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What Colleges Can Do:

Summer Bridge Programs

College summer bridge programs or transitional programs for high-risk, low-income and minority students are becoming an established part of the effort to recruit, retain, and graduate a population of high-risk students in higher education.

Examples of Transitional Programs that Colleges Offer

- Bridge Program in Math and Science:
 - University of the South: Sewanee
 - <http://www.sewanee.edu/bridgeprogram/>
- Chattanooga State Camp Tiger Program
 - http://www.chattanooga.state.edu/camp_tiger/
- OASIS Transition Program
 - University of Florida
 - http://www.oasis.ufl.edu/OASIS_transition_program.html
- James Baldwin Scholars Program
 - Hampshire College
 - <http://www.hampshire.edu/admissions/2268.htm>
- UT LEAD
 - University of Tennessee at Knoxville
 - <http://studentsuccess.utk.edu/utl.html>

College Access Programs (high school level)

- GEAR UP
 - UPWARD Bound
 - Prism Math and Science Program
 - Educational Talent Search
 - College Advisor Program through the Public Education Foundation
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Resources:

- www.pathwaystocollege.net
 - www.ecmcfoundation.org
 - www.Collegeboard.com
 - www.Fastweb.com
 - www.Tn.gov/collegepays
 - www.ECMCfoundation.org
 - www.collegeforTN.org
 - http://www.collegeaccess.org/
 - www.sacac.org
 - www.nacacnet.org
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We want to hear from you!

What strategies do you use for your
underrepresented students?

Other questions or comments?



THANK YOU!

A List of References is Available Upon Request

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