



Serving First Generation College Students

A Guide to Ensuring Success at the High School
and College Levels

Kayla Storr, MPH | OCCF Summer Institute

About Me

First Gen College Graduate

Gates Millennium Scholar

2 Bachelors, 1 Masters, PhD in Progress

Associate Director Diversity Enrichment Programs

Adjunct Professor, African and African American Studies

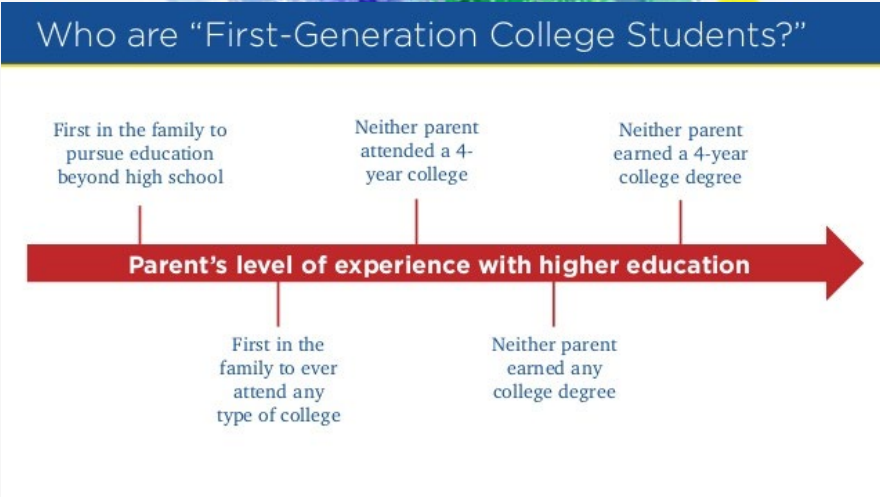
Motivational Story Teller



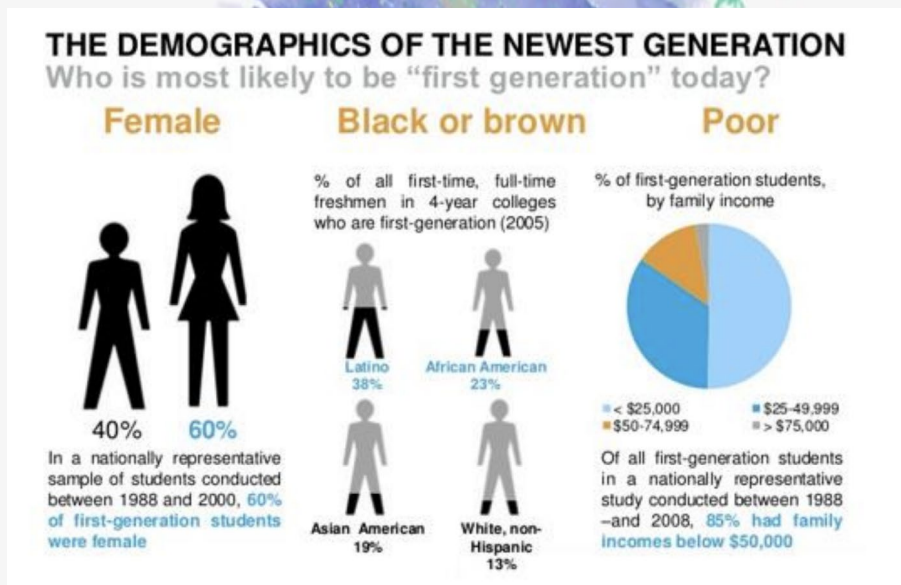
Kayla Storrs, MPH | OCCF Summer Institute



Defining First Generation Students



Background



Compared to Their Non-First Gen Peers:

- Lack cultural capital
- Lack Knowledge about funding college
- Less likely to persist to college graduation
- Less academically prepared, lack study skills, need remedial courses
- Often feel a lack of support in college
- Have lower educational and career aspirations
- Feel intimidated by professors

Kayla Storrs, MPH | OCCF Summer Institute

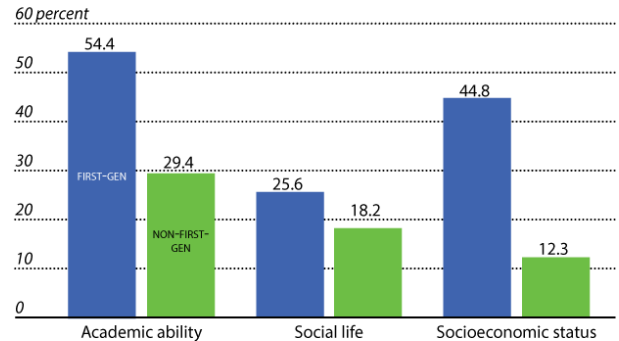
discrimination

Indicators of Success

- Participation in College Preparation Programs
 - Upward Bound, AVID, College Talent Search
- Self Efficacy
 - One's sense of ability to execute a task
- Family Support
 - Parents mostly, but family in general

Feelings of inadequacy among first-generation students

First-generation students are more likely than non-first-generation students to feel inadequate about their academic ability, social life and socioeconomic status.



Source: March 2-3 Herald Poll

The Role of Educational Institutions



- Identify, recruit, and track first gen students
 - You can't serve them if you don't know who they are!
- Bring them to campus early
 - Allow them to envision themselves as students
- Focus on intersection identities
 - What else are they bringing to the table? How might these identities impact their

The Role of Educational Institutions

- Develop programs to meet needs and contribute to retention
 - Consider a needs assessment; listen to your students/parents
- Utilize mentors
 - Students need to have people that have been where they've been.
- Institutionalize a commitment to first gen students



Kayla Storr, MPH | OCCF Summer Institute

administration. Highlight the importance and impact that serving these students has

The Role of Educational Institutions



- Build community, promote engagement, motivation
 - Create spaces that these students can create community, accountability, and support/encourage each other. We rise together
- Involve families!* but keep expectations realistic
 - This is IMPORTANT. You're not recruiting/serving a student. You're recruiting/serving the entire family.
- Acknowledge and ease when possible, financial pressures
 - Provide financial resources and assistance in planning, applying for, and securing funds to offset the cost of college.



The Role of Educational Institutions

- TRACK, TRACK, TRACK! What works and what doesn't? Improve accordingly
 - Tailor, adjust, and improve CONTINUALLY



What OU is Doing

- Info Card Tracking/Identifying
- First Sooner
- First to Go OU
- Project Threshold
- Campus Partnerships

Q&A



Kayla Storr, MPH | OCCF Summer Institute