



CONFERENCE

DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR FIRST- GENERATION STUDENTS

September 17 - 19, 2018
Orlando, FL



ai ACADEMIC
IMPRESSIONS



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Support first-generation students not only toward academic success but toward greater opportunity beyond graduation.

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OVERVIEW

Many college campuses are finding that their first-generation (first-gen) student population has grown exponentially in the past five years, with some reporting 24-30% of their student body identifying as first-gen. Unfortunately, only about 20% of this population graduate with a degree within 10 years. Because so many first-gen students are also low-income, this is especially disheartening as this means many students are taking on debt, as well as not finishing their degree.

This conference is designed to give you a wide variety of tools to best address the challenges your first-gen population faces and to give them the best chance at success.

POST-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: HOW EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROVIDES NEW AVENUES FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

This three-hour workshop will dive deeper into career counseling by exploring programs that help students build experiential knowledge. From broadening perspectives on potential careers to learning vital soft skills, experiential learning can help prepare first-gen students by providing them with key knowledge and skills for success in their future workplace.

PROGRAM FORMAT

Throughout these three days, we will examine comprehensive models of how institutions help their first-gen students succeed on campus and complete their degrees. The speakers bring a diverse set of perspectives from each of their unique institutions. You will learn what makes each program unique and successful, and you will have opportunities to begin creating or improving your own support system for first-gen students.

[VISIT EVENT PAGE](#)

www.academicimpressions.com/first-generation-success/



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This program is ideal for professionals who offer academic support to first-gen students and/or lead student success initiatives. In addition, we recommend that leaders from the following areas attend:

- Academic Affairs
- Student Affairs
- Enrollment Management
- Admissions

LEARNING OUTCOME

After participating in this conference, you will gain a better understanding of approaches to improve your first-generation student success.



AGENDA

DAY ONE

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Conference Registration (included in workshop registration fee)

1:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Common Goals: How First-Generation Success and the Financial Health of Your Institution Are Linked

Many institutions are seeing a growth in the number of first-generation students on their campus. In some cases, the completion rate of this group is lower than average. This opening activity will begin with a conversation on first-gen students and what the data tell us. We will also begin the discussion of current initiatives you have on your campus to support first-gen students, what indicators you have of the initiatives' impact, and where your current challenges lie.

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Pre-Arrival: Setting the Stage for First-Generation Success

Setting up first-gen students for success begins before they step foot on campus. In this session, you will learn how institutions have provided programs prior to the first semester that helped these students to connect to their new environment and prepare for the exciting journey ahead of them.

3:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 - 4:30 p.m.

Working Session and Day 1 Close

As we conclude our first day together, you will have an opportunity to prioritize your challenges with first-gen student success. We will identify themes that will be threaded into the remaining sessions of the conference. The speakers will be available for consulting and discussion. We will finish the day by sharing ideas and preparing for Day Two.

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Networking Reception (included in registration fee)



AGENDA

DAY TWO

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

College Knowledge: Helping First-Generation Acclimate to Academia

One of the more nuanced challenges that many first-gen students face is how to acclimate to college. Being the first in your family to go to college is an exciting and admirable accomplishment. However, many of these students find themselves missing a “hidden curriculum” that can include how to study and manage time, how to access resources, how to interpret college jargon, and how to be involved and get the most out of the college experience. This session will highlight successful programs that have shown a positive impact on first-gen students acclimating to college.

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Providing Academic Support for First-Generation Students

From providing provisional admission with support to reducing time to degree completion, institutions that are successful with first-gen students provide a myriad of resources that engage and support students. Our experts will share examples of successful programs that have provided academic support to help first-gen students overcome hurdles and obtain their degree.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Lunch (included in registration fee)

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Providing Social/Emotional Support

One of the keys to retaining first-gen students is to help them take pride in their accomplishments rather than trying to hide their first-gen status. In this session, you will learn about proven practices that help to build first-gen students' self-esteem and create a community of support, from celebrating their status to connecting with first-gen faculty.

1:45 - 2:30 p.m.

Working Session

You will have an opportunity to workshop how to help first-gen students acclimate to college and to provide social/emotional support. The speakers will be available for discussion and consultation.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 - 4:00 p.m.

Connecting Families of First-Generation Students to the Institution

One of the keys to retaining first-gen students is to also make the family feel welcome on campus. We will discuss how to engage parents as partners in student success and how to help both the student and the family through this transition, including: creating activities that help to bridge cultural gaps, including parents in on-campus activities, and giving students tools for communicating about their college lives.

4:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Day Two Wrap Up



AGENDA

DAY THREE

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast (included in registration fee)

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Financial Counseling: Debt vs. Degree

To begin our final day together, we will have a panel discussion about debt versus degree. This is one of the more controversial subjects in working with students. First-gen students are sometimes, though not always, low-income students and need to have a very clear understanding of financial literacy and the debt they are taking on in relation to the job possibilities when they graduate.

10:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 - 11:00 a.m.

Career Counseling for First-Generation Students

This presentation will help you with special considerations when career counseling with first-gen students. Many first-gen students may not have a broad understanding of the variety of industries or job options available upon graduation.

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Final Working Session

This final working session will allow you time to plan your first action steps upon returning to campus. You will share and get feedback from your peers and the conference speakers.

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Final Questions, Conference Wrap Up, and Evaluations

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lunch for Post-Con Attendees (included in workshop registration fee)

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Post-Conference Workshop: How Experiential Learning Provides New Avenues for First-Generation Students

This three-hour workshop will dive deeper into career counseling by exploring programs that help students to build experiential knowledge. From broadening perspectives on potential careers to learning vital soft skills, experiential learning can help prepare your first-gen students by providing key knowledge and skills for success in their future workplace. Topics will include pre-college programs for first-gen students, study abroad, service learning, career exploration, conference opportunities, and research opportunities.



INSTRUCTORS

Tom Gutto, Director of Transfer Enrollment Services, Loyola Marymount University

Tom works very closely with each LMU college to ensure the matriculation and smooth transition of transfer students, as well as the successful completion of their academic experience.

La'Tonya Rease Miles, Director, First Year Experience & Strategic Initiatives, UCLA

La'Tonya oversees signature initiatives on campus, including UCLA's First To Go program, which promotes campus engagement with a focus on the retention and success of all first-gen students.

Cynthia Mosqueda, Faculty Coordinator, Counselor, Governor at Large-FACCC, El Camino Community College

Cynthia has received the First Year Advocate Award from the National Center for First Year Experience and Students in Transition for her work in helping first-year students transition into college life.

Julie Nash, Vice Provost for Student Success, University of Massachusetts - Lowell

Julie's mission in her role is proactive outreach to academically struggling students, especially first year students, by collaborating across colleges and student success centers. U Mass Lowell's new River Hawk Rising Scholars is dedicated to first-gen success.

Daphne Rankin, Associate Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, Virginia Commonwealth University

Daphne and her team at VCU have developed resources for first-year students and parents with their online course, Beyond Orientation: Partnering for Success in Today's University.



OTHERS	VS	ACADEMIC IMPRESSIONS
Typically large annual event		Intimate, workshop-style event with personalized attention
Many concurrent sessions; forcing choice		One focused learning track
Uneven sessions and less outcome-focused, driven by an open call for proposals		Needs-driven and meticulously planned with practical outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans and next steps to use upon returning to campus Carefully-vetted expert instructors that are also practitioners in the field
Lecture-based		Learner-centric and designed for interaction and collaboration
Large networking events with vendors		Small-scale opportunity to truly connect with colleagues in the same position at other institutions
Some slide presentations posted online after the event		200+ page workbooks with references, worksheets, articles, templates, exercises, and planning documents

96%
of past attendees would recommend an AI conference to a colleague

250+
and growing of AI member institutions (AI Pro)

15,000+
higher ed professionals served

AI Conference Experiences

Academic Impressions provides valuable exploration of timely and pragmatic challenges to higher education institutions. The combination of impassioned subject matter experts as presenters and means of engaging conference attendees was potent.

- C. Tennent, Associate VP of Facilities Management, University of Saskatchewan

This conference was the complete package: relevant topics, philosophical and practical applications, fantastic speakers, fantastic location. One of the BEST conferences I've ever attended. It is what a conference should be! Full of collaboration, networking and solutions.

- M. Lowe, Associate Professor and General Reference Librarian University of Louisiana at Monroe



LOCATION

September 17 - 19, 2018 :: Orlando, FL

HOTEL:

Wyndham Grand Orlando Resort Bonnet Creek
14651 Chelonia Pkwy
Orlando, FL 32821
407.390.2300

Room Rate: \$179, plus applicable tax.

Room Block Dates: September 16, 17, and 18

Rate Available Until: August 24, 2018

Rooms and rates are subject to hotel availability - please book early.

Reserve Your Room: Call 407.390.2300 and indicate that you are with the Academic Impressions group to receive the group rate.