Straddling Two Worlds—Meeting the Needs of First Generation Scholars

How Do We Get Started? Examples of FGS Programs

National Postdoctoral Association
Annual Meeting
March 16, 2013
* Start mentoring first generation students early in college career to dispel myths/stigmas
* May need direction on financial aid, application process, writing admission essays
* Connect FG students with mentors who can answer questions about graduate school—expectations, how and where to start looking for programs, length of degree, how does one pay for grad school

* Mentoring is key
* Social Media can be a useful vehicle
* Peer-to-peer mentor groups
* Encourage faculty and administrators who were FG Scholars to write or talk about their experiences
* Provide opportunities for families to visit campus

* Establish networks with other First Generation Scholars
First Generation to College

Welcome
Welcome to the First Generation College Student Initiative. In line with UCSF’s mission to educate and train a diverse student body, this initiative aims to foster support programs that meet the needs of this student community.

Who are first generation college students?
First generation college students are those whose parents/guardians have not obtained a Bachelor’s degree in the U.S. Without this family background, first generation college students are academic pioneers who may need support to build the social and navigational capital to not only survive, but thrive in their educational experience.

Join us
As UCSF students, faculty and staff who are first generation college and/or interested in supporting first generation college students, we invite you to participate in this initiative by:

- joining our Facebook community
- participating in future events and programs
- learning more about our committed First Generation College Faculty/Resident/Postdoc Mentors
- sending an email to share your ideas about how to make UCSF a great place for current and prospective first generation college students
* Online community to enable first generation scholars to connect with one another
* List of mentors from the graduate, postdoctoral and faculty ranks who were First Generation Scholars
* Opening reception and planned events for FG Students
* Support from the Vice Chancellor of Student Academic Affairs
* Exposure across campus

* Key Features of UCSF Program
In a Bulletin Board announcement to the campus community, President Welty offered his encouragement for a new undertaking, the First Generation Stories Project. Here is his message: "If you are one of our many faculty and staff who are first-generation college graduates, I write to invite you to contribute to the First Generation Stories Project—a project designed to provide inspiration and role models for our first-generation students."

President Welty’s complete message describes the project and its purpose. Read it here.

**First Generation Article: Chronicle of Higher Education**

Read the article: "A Campus of Pioneers"

Go to this link to read faculty and staff first generation stories.
* “The organizers of this project will collect our stories and edit them for use in student support programs, classrooms, blogs, and other venues. The final product will take several forms, including web, video and hard copy.”

--CSU President John Welty

* Faculty and staff at CSU-Fresno share their own stories of being FG Scholars to serve as a guide for new students

* **CSU-Fresno First Generation Stories Project**
Welcome to PEER!

The Program for Excellence & Equity in Research (PEER) was created to increase the number of accomplished, competitive, and determined underrepresented minority students who pursue Ph.D.s in the sciences, attain careers in biomedical research, and contribute to our nation's well being.

Biomedical research, in particular, has become a multi-disciplinary profession, bringing together fields like biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, and engineering to understand biological systems from the organism to the atom. Thus, the next generation of bioscientists will need more than a casual
The Program for Excellence & Equity in Research (PEER) was created to increase the number of successful underrepresented minority Ph.D. students in the sciences.

* Specialized Ph.D. Plan to ensure PEER scholars’ success as they progress through the program.
* Skills Workshops for Career Development.
* Science communication resources for honing communication skills.
* Team of mentors assigned to each cohort

* Key Features of UT PEER Program