

Supporting Families of 1st Generation Students

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Learning Outcomes

- Participants will be able to gain an understanding of various research methods which can be utilized to create informed programs and practices.
- Participants will be able to gain an understanding of support programs and communication tools for family members of 1st Generation students.
- Participants will be able to identify necessary resources and partners needed to launch family programming for 1st Generation Families.
- Participants will be able to discuss implementing similar programs at their institution.
- Participants will be able to identify methods of assessing a family program for 1st Generation Families.



INTRODUCTION

Demographics & Background Information



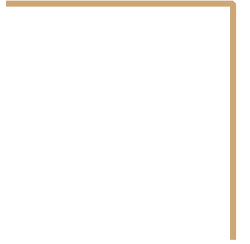
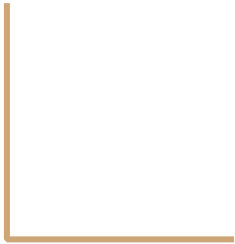
Introduction: Demographics

Year	Undergraduates	1st Gen		FTIC 1st Gen	
	Total	Total	%	Total	%
2012	40,100	10,565	26%	2,313	21.9%
2013	42,029	10,980	26%	2,555	23.3%
2014	44,681	11,490	26%	2,574	22.4%
2015	46,492	12,152	26%	2,588	21.3%
2016	48,346	12,556	26%	2,403	19.1%

Introduction: New Student Conference

- The New Student Conference (NSC) is Texas A&M's mandatory two-day orientation program
 - Dates range from Mid-May to August
 - 16 Freshmen Conferences, 5 Transfer Conferences
 - Students & Families are together for the majority of sessions; five family breakout sessions
 - Mandatory programming ends at 5:10 pm; optional Student/Family Track 5:15-9:00 pm
 - Cost for Family to attend to NSC: \$25-30

RESEARCH



Benchmarking

Fall 2016

- No peer-institutions had 1st Generation Family Programs
- Some smaller institutions were doing programming for 1st Generation Families
- Most programs were not orientation-related

Analysis of Existing Data

October 2016

- Matched Student & Family Participation using Student UIN
- N= Students not bringing a family member

Analysis of Existing Data

October 2016

- Matched Student & Family Participation using Student UIN
- N= Students not bringing a family member

	2013 (n=3,188)	2014 (n=4,165)	2015 (n=2,217)	2016 (n=2,329)	Total (N=11,899)
Gender					
Female	48%	51%	44%	41%	47%
Male	52%	50%	56%	59%	53%
Ethnicity					
2 or more/excluding Black	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
American Indian Only	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Asian Only	9%	11%	12%	12%	11%
Black only + 2 or more/1 Black	5%	5%	7%	6%	6%
Hispanic or Latino of any Race	32%	33%	34%	28%	32%
International	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Native Hawaiian Only	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Unknown or Not Reported	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
White Only	50%	47%	44%	49%	48%
First Generation					
Not First Generation	56%	58%	59%	65%	59%
First Generation	36%	35%	38%	31%	35%
Unknown	8%	8%	2%	4%	6%
Retention Rates					
Fall to Fall Retention	87%	88%	89%	Unavailable *	
Not retained	13%	12%	11%	Unavailable *	
GPR					
Average GPR for first fall semester	2.79	2.88	2.96	Unavailable *	

Analysis of Existing Data

October 2016

- N= number of 1st Gen Students not bringing a family member

	2013 (n=1,143)	2014 (n=1,439)	2015 (n=849)	2016 (n=726)
Gender				
Female	55%	54%	48%	43%
Male	45%	46%	52%	57%
Ethnicity				
2 or more/excluding Black	1%	2%	1%	1%
American Indian Only	--	<1%	<1%	--
Asian Only	9%	11%	11%	13%
Black only + 2 or more/1 Black	8%	8%	11%	10%
Hispanic or Latino of any Race	56%	58%	56%	54%
International	--	<1%	<1%	<1%
Native Hawaiian Only	<1%	<1%	<1%	--
Unknown or Not Reported	--	--	<1%	--
White Only	27%	23%	19%	23%
Retention Rates				
Fall to Fall Retention	81%	83%	84%	Unavailable*
Not retained	19%	17%	16%	Unavailable*
GPR				
Average GPR for first fall semester	2.50	2.67	2.75	Unavailable*

Analysis of Existing Data

- Students attending their NSC without family members were often white, male students who were not first generation students.
- However, there is an overrepresentation of first generation students among those who attended NSC without their family.
- About 26% of College Station undergraduates are first generation as opposed to the approximately 35% represented in this data

Survey

November 2016- January 2017

- The survey assessed the reasons why the student did or did not bring family member(s) to their NSC with the intention of finding out populations and geographical areas with different needs and potentially adopt new programs to serve the family needs of our incoming students.

Survey

Results for those who did NOT bring a family member.

Out of (N=188) participants who did not bring a family member to NSC, **(N=54)** said neither parents/guardians attended college.

Question	Reason	N (431)	Percent (100%)
Reasons family members did not attend NSC	Day and time of the week	91	21.1%
	Did not think information was necessary	74	17.2%
	Travel arrangements	64	14.8%
	Cost	55	12.8%
	Housing not provided	43	10.0%
	Did not think or know family members were invited	31	7.2%
	Other	31	7.2%
	Family attended NSC with older sibling	14	3.2%
	Family is a former student	14	3.2%
	Family is from BCS area	8	1.9%
	Not enough marketing	3	.7%
	Family works at the university	3	.7%

Focus Groups

January/Feb 2017

- All students participating were 1st Generation Students
- There was a mix of those who did/did not bring family members to the NSC.
- Students were recruited from the survey, and by reaching out to academic/scholarship programs for 1st Generation Students.

Focus Groups

Results

- Students from this population considered themselves extremely independent as they went through the college application process on their own and the relationship between college and families is not present.
- Students demonstrated the need for emotional support from their families.
- Some recurring themes in regards to how the institution can involve their families better is through separate sessions during NSC, better equipping them with information, and preparing them for the transition the student is going through.



PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AT NEW STUDENT CONFERENCE



Program Implementation at NSC

- Took existing family breakout sessions “Partners in Success” and modified for “ 1st Generation Partners in Success”.
- Facilitated by Dept. of Student Life staff and 1st Generation Students.
- Topics: include health/safety, academic resources, etc.
- Specific focus on how to support your student, university lingo and traditions, “What your student wish you would know/understand”.

Program Implementation at NSC

- Student volunteers were crucial to success of program.
 - Provided firsthand perspective
 - Students were “paid” with Dining Dollars gift card
 - 2 students per session; all required to do 3 sessions, more if willing

Program Implementation at NSC



“As a first generation student and someone who intends on enter the field of student affairs, it made perfect sense to volunteer for this program, both to gain experience and as a way to give back...”

The types of questions received from parents varied depending on the extent to which the main presenter engaged the audience. Topics included: FERPA, Alcohol/Drugs, Mental Health, Student Life, etc.

Program Implementation at NSC

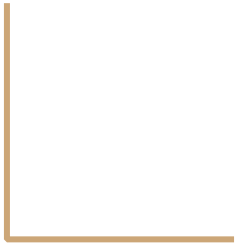
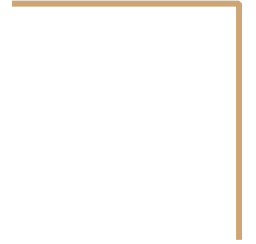


“...This program is an amazing idea, and I have already seen it have a high impact on parents throughout the summer. What I believe would make it even more more effective is ensuring that the division representative is trained and expected to lead a dialogue with these parents, not simply give a presentation. In this vein, I believe that (with appropriate training and supervision) that students could not only give a short speech regarding their college experience, but be further integrated in giving the main portion of the presentation, most likely with the University presenter always being responsible for discussing alcohol, drugs, etc. to ensure that a trained professional is delivering a message that aligns with the University's policies and values.”

Program Implementation at NSC

- Due to the overlap in 1st Generation and Spanish-Speaking families we made some additional changes to our NSC en Español experience.
- Dinner for Spanish speaking families takes place in a different room where they can engage with Spanish-Speaking Orientation Leaders and faculty/staff.
- Opportunities for families to interact directly in their preferred language.
- Includes campus information, time for Q&A, and Lotería.

NEXT STEPS & FUTURE DIRECTIONS



Program Implementation in communities

- Community- based programs
 - Used data from Admissions to identify high recruiting areas, and use NSC data for low attendance areas
- Partner with Regional Parent Clubs, Alumni Clubs, and Prospective Student Centers to create programs in targeted geographic regions.
 - Opportunity for families to connect with others in their area
 - Provide family orientation session information in-person on a weekend
 - Opportunity for incoming students to connect with other students
 - Does not replace students mandatory orientation
- Had opportunity to implement one program in 2017 in McAllen, TX

Communication

Phase II for Summer 2018

- Postcards for zip codes with low participation
- Postcards direct mailed to families of 1st Generation Students (if data can be obtained)
- Additional support resource guide

Challenges/Lessons Learned

- Access to data
- Resources allocated to specific population (what is the amount spent per individual in this population?)
- Identifying experts and partners to implement programs
- Creating buy-in—how do you convey the importance to 1st Generation Families?
- Clearly define 1st Gen!

Challenges/Lessons Learned

- Presenters
 - Who is responsible for this session?
 - Who can cover all content?
 - Opportunities to train students & better prepare them for this opportunity.
- Continue to refine content



APPLICATION & DISCUSSION



Application & Discussion

- What does your student population/ data tell you?
- Do you track family involvement?
- How can you celebrate 1st Generation students and also embrace their families?
- What are you currently doing for 1st Generation Families?
- What could you do for 1st Generation Families?

Thank You!

Questions?

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