

# Compelling Partnerships:

**Expanding Engagement and Support for First-Generation Families**

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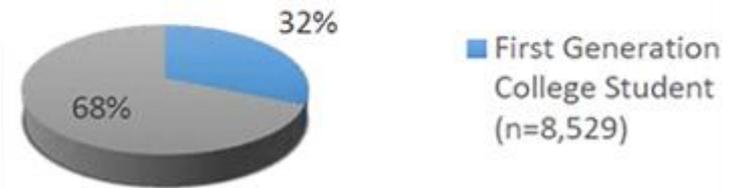
# Why is this partnership needed at UCLA?

**Fact #1:** 2016 UCLA first-gen undergraduates: 32% Data Source: UCLA data repository (AIMDR) -- numbers as of 3rd week Spring 2016

**Fact #2:** Parents/families provide crucial emotional support, not all have navigational capital (Alvarez, 2016; Ceja, 2006)

**Fact #3:** Parent/family engagement contributes to student success & retention

Spring 2016 UCLA Undergraduate First Generation College Student Enrollment



\* Parents of first-gen students must **gain navigational skills** in order to support their students' success & retention\*

# What do we know about families of first-gen students?

Important source of emotional support

Hold high aspirations for students' educational attainment

Have little/no knowledge on higher education system in the U.S. \*\*

Misunderstanding of U.S. higher education system can lead to miscommunication with students about educational expectations

# OUR “LOVE STORY”

It was a balmy spring day...

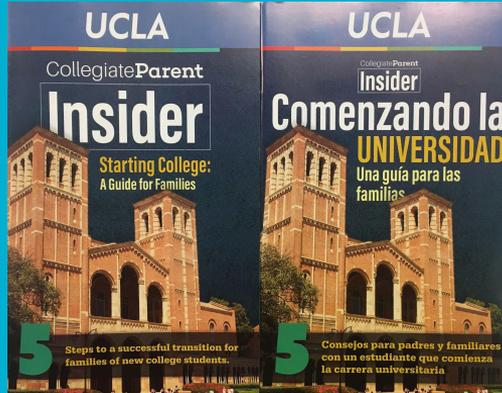
- First Generation Institute follow up
- Natural brainstorming
- Steps forward

What did we have to offer each other?

- Forums for communication/interaction
- Resources and skillsets



# Capitalizing on Existing Opportunities



# Imagining Fresh Opportunities: Creating a Strategic Plan

- Examine existing studies and conduct new research
- Identify traditional/annual partnership opportunities
- Expand available materials & resources
- Engage in regular communication & meetings
- Internal and external resource/knowledge-sharing

# Tips for Establishing a Successful Partnership



- Be open to new partnerships
- Start with tangible and feasible opportunities
- Focus on natural overlap and share resources
- Outline deliverables early and often
- Be honest about your contributions
- Maintain constant communication
- Create a long-term strategic plan *together*

# Reflection & Group Discussion

Utilizing the worksheet...

1. Identify a natural partner in serving first-gen college families
2. Identify existing ways you could support each other
3. Identify potential fresh opportunities for collaboration



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