



Supporting First-Year, First- Generation College Students in Transition

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Overview

- Introductions
- Learning Outcomes
- Defining First-Generation College Students: A National Literature Review
- Telling Your Institution's First-Generation College Student Story
- Institutional Strategies
 - The Lighthouse Project First-Generation College Student Transition Program at FHSU

Overview





Learning Outcomes

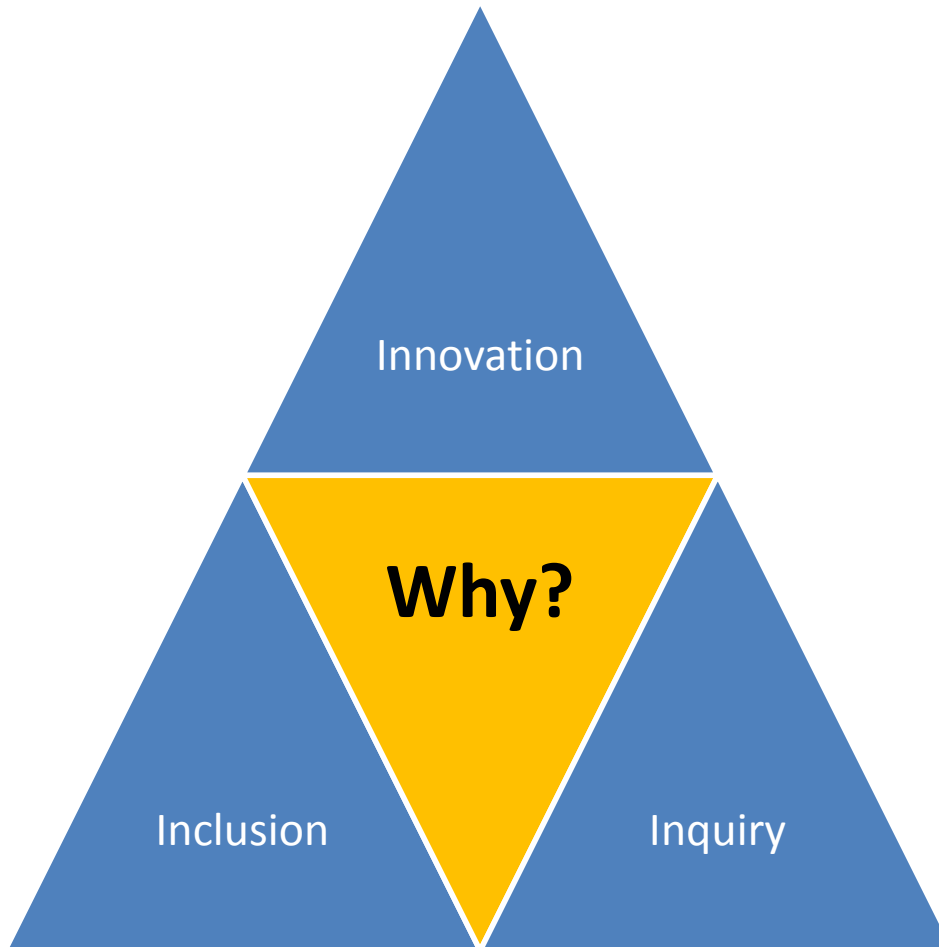
As a result of participating in this educational session, participants will:

- Define orientation, transition & retention.
- Identify 2 characteristics of first-year, first-generation college students in transitioning into higher education.
- Articulate 1 new strategy to utilize to build or enhance a culture of support for first-year, first-generation college students in transition.

Reflection



Reflective Prompt #1





Definitions

- **Orientation:**
- **Transition:**
- **Retention:**

Definitions

- **Orientation:** deliberate programmatic & service efforts designed to facilitate the transition of new students to the institution; prepare students for the institution's educational opportunities & student responsibilities; initiate the integration of new students into the intellectual, cultural & social climate of the institution; & support the parents, partners, guardians, & children of the new student.

Source: NODA Task Force to Explore the Definition of Orientation, Transition & Retention (2012)

Definitions

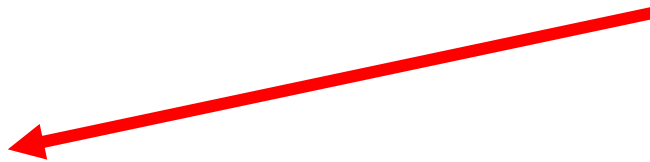
- **Retention**: student progression through higher education, focusing primarily on student persistence (i.e. term to term) through the beginning of the 2nd year at the same institution, with the goal being graduation from that institution and/or achievement of personal educational objectives. Retention is 1 outcome/measure/byproduct of successful student transition, which can be facilitated by effective orientation programs & other academic & social integration processes.

Source: NODA Task Force to Explore the Definition of Orientation, Transition & Retention (2012)

Definitions

- Orientation:

- Transition:



- Retention:



Definitions

- **Transition:** the process students go through (typically lasting up to 1 year) when entering a particular institution of higher education and/or entering the same institution for a new purpose. This may include, but is not limited to, entering a college as a first-year student, transferring to a college from a different institution, and/or entering a college or university for a subsequent degree. Successful transition results in student integration into the institution & ultimately retention and/or achievement of personal educational objectives.

Source: NODA Task Force to Explore the Definition of Orientation, Transition & Retention (2012)

Definitions

- **First-generation college student:** “a student for whom neither parent attended college or a student for whom neither parent attained a baccalaureate degree” (Ward, Siegel & Davenport, 2012, p. 3)
- **Continuing-generation college student:** a student “with at least one parent with a four-year college degree” (Leopold, 2014, para 2)

Definitions

- **Cultural capital**: “the extent to which one is comfortable and familiar with the norms and culture of the institution” (Lundberg, Schreiner, Hovaguimian & Slavin Miller, 2007, pp. 58-59)
- **Social capital**: “resources embedded in social structures, accessibility to those resources, and use of such resources” (Nichols & Islas, 2016, p. 63)



Reflective Prompt #2

How does your institution define “first-generation college student?”

How does this definition align with your institution’s mission, values, and/or strategic priorities?

Defining First-Gen Students

Pre-College Characteristics



Defining First-Gen Students

Transition into Higher Education

COMMUNITY



Defining First-Gen Students

Mental Health



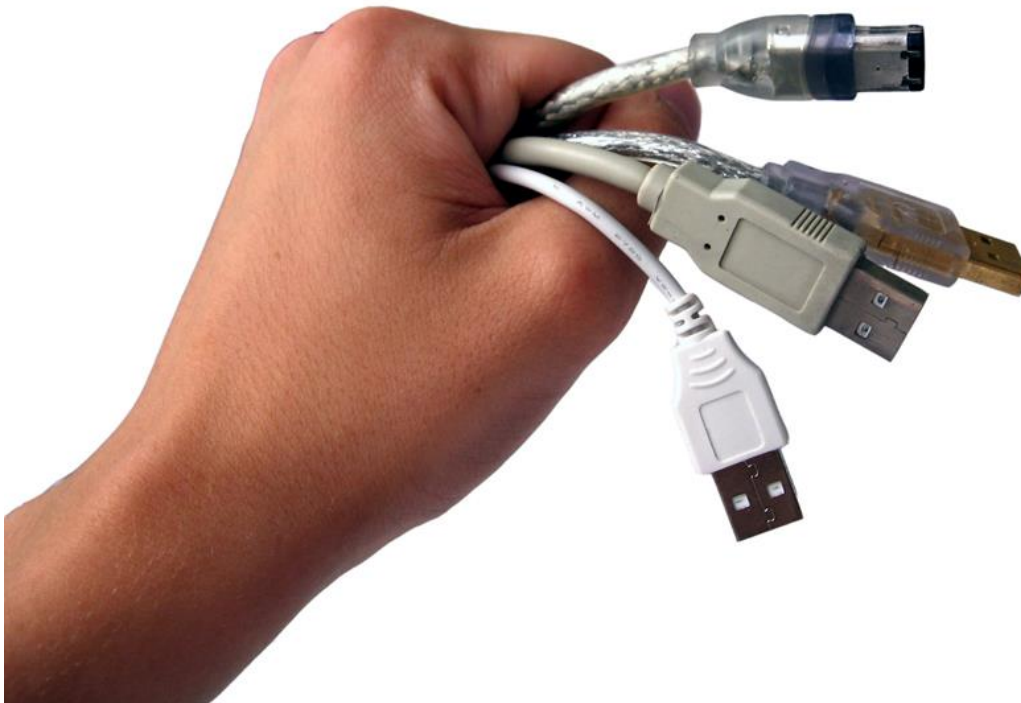
Defining First-Gen Students

Family Engagement & Interaction



Defining First-Gen Students

Institutional Challenges





Your Campus First-Gen Story



Ricardo Zamora

Junior, Business Management major

NUFP Fellow

Student Director for the Transition Experience



Your Campus First-Gen Story



Haydee Reyes

Junior, Organizational Leadership major

NUFP Fellow

Student Director for Tiger Impact Fall Orientation



Your Campus First-Gen Story



Melanie Arellano

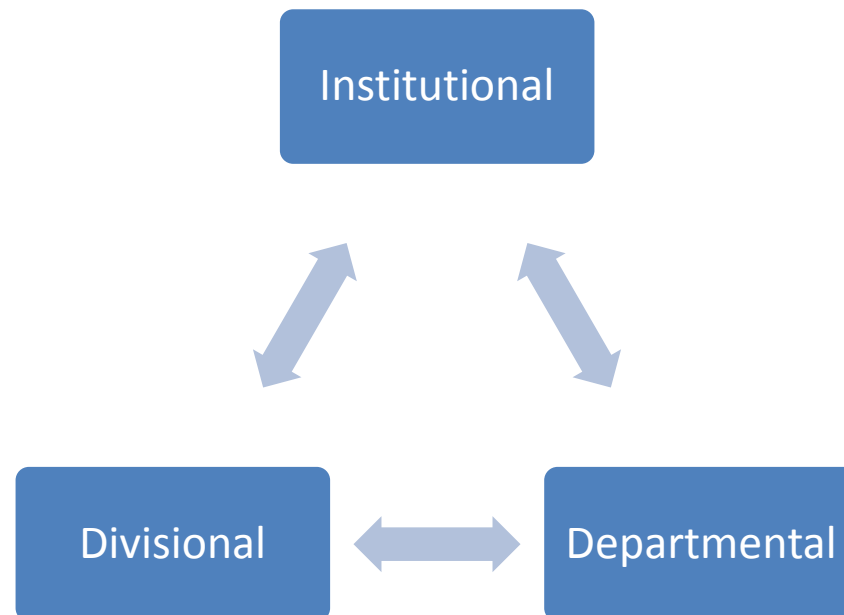
Junior, Social Work major

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Student Director for Family Orientation

Reflective Prompt #3

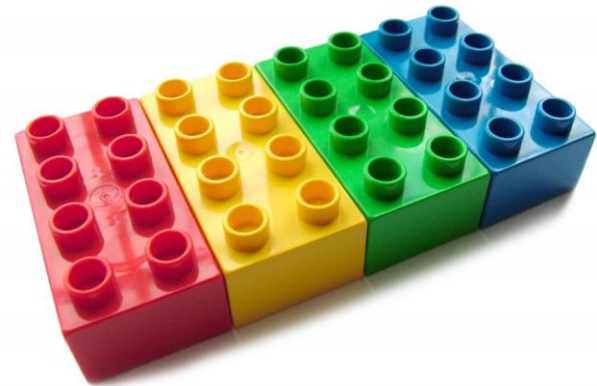
What data do you not have that you need to make informed decisions about strategies for your institution's first-generation college students?



Institutional Strategies

**You cannot do this alone...
But you can champion the cause**

SEPARATE
STRATEGIES



INTEGRATED
STRATEGIES

Institutional Strategies





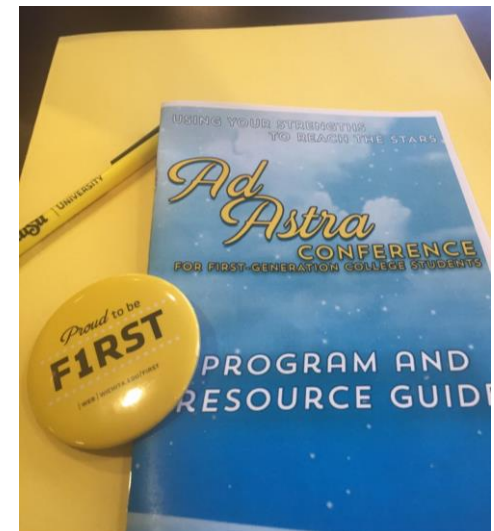
Reflective Prompt #4

If there is a leadership gap on your campus, how will you fill it with capacity to support first-generation college students?

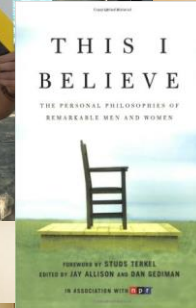
Direction and Goals

Interconnectivity

Institutional Strategies



The Lighthouse Project





Institutional Strategies

Some starting points from EAB's (2016) toolkit

- Empower students to better navigate the college experience
- Highlight positive identity-based messaging
- Rethink our approach to student involvement
- Frontload guided practice with career development
- Intentionally engage parents & family members

Culture of Support





Contact Information

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