It Takes A Village: To and Through Support for First Generation College Students
Objectives

- Discuss the programming needs and challenges of first generation students
- Learn about new programs and initiatives that support first generation students in and out of the classroom
- Understand how collaborations can help enhance services for first generation students
● In 2011-12, 34% of UGs were first in family at college. Additional 28% of UGs had parent with some college (no 4-year degree) (Post-Secondary National Institute)

● First gen students often older than peers and more likely to have dependents. (Post-Secondary National Policy Institute)

● Just 11% of students entering a 2-yr institution complete bachelor’s degrees. (First Generation Foundation)

● Non-completers with loans =3X more likely to default (U.S. Dept of Education)

● Mentoring & coaching participants 10%-15% more likely to continue next year and 4% more likely to graduate. (Educational Advisory Board)
OneGoal
Katie Jones, Senior Director of Postsecondary
OneGoal Model:
3 years, teacher-led, transition to college

- **Year 1:** GPA & SAT improvement, Researching Best Fit colleges
- **Year 2:** Applications, Financial Aid, Enrollment Checklist
- **Year 3:** Academic, Financial, Social Steps to Success
Genesys Works: Danielle Cannady

**THE PROGRAM**
Over the course of 14 months, students spend approximately 1,200 hours in training, in a professional job, and attending college preparatory and career counseling sessions.

High school students participate in 4 interlocking program components:
- An 8-week technical and professional skills training program
- A paid, year-long internship
- College and career coaching
- Ongoing alumni support

**14 MONTHS**
**1,200 HOURS**

**THE STUDENTS**
Within the Genesys Works student population:
- 96% identify as students of color
- 87% participate in a Free or Reduced Lunch Program
- 82% would be the first in their families to attend college
Genesys Works: Danielle Cannady

**College Enrollment Rate**: 93% Genesys Works

**Degree Attainment Rate**: Genesys Works students earn a 4 yr degree at 3.5x the rate of the comparison group

**Salary**: $40,000 – $45,000

The median income of program alumni working full-time, no longer in college, and graduated from high school at least 5 years ago.
Academic Coaching

Skills:
- Organization
- Note Taking
- Reading Strategies
- Time/Task Mgmt
- Public Speaking

Workshops

Becca Güler, Learning Specialist

University of Houston Clear Lake
Student Success Center
UHCL Gen One Academy

An involvement and engagement academy for first generation students structured to provide participants with exposure and competencies in the following areas:

- Career Exploration and Preparation
- Diversity
- Leadership and Critical Thinking
- Collaboration

- Monthly discussion sessions
- Cohort system of support, networking
- Mandatory, minimum event participation
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References


Questions posed to the panel
Unanswered:

How are students identified for the programs?

**Academic Coaching:** students are referred by faculty/staff or find us through our marketing efforts. GenOne Academy - marketing efforts and data collected from enrollment services.

**OneGoal:** our staff, teachers, & students encourage prospective students to attend info sessions at their schools to learn more about & apply for OneGoal. Teachers often refer students to apply - looking for “average” students academically.

**Genesys Works:** During a student's' junior year, GW does presentations to high school classes about the program and students apply online with their counselor’s recommendations. We have a two interview process before students are invited to summer training. We don’t ask for GPA of students, just that they are/will be on track to graduate.

Do One Goal and Genesys Works work with AVID programs in high schools?

**Genesys Works:** there’s not an official partnership with AVID programing in schools, but we usually have a handful of students in our program from AVID.
Questions posed to the panel
Unanswered:
Can you tell us more about how you partner with career services office or potential opportunities in the future?

UHCL Career Services offers services and programs on their own, and I help schedule the gen one students so that they see them as a group. This way, Gen One students feel comfortable attending since it is the entire cohort that is in attendance.

How do you track/measure student success?
In academic coaching, we do both qualitative and quantitative assessments. Surveys provide us with student feedback regarding how much they feel their skills (and which skills) improved through working with a coach, as well as if they have made a connection between coaching and higher grades. We input starting and ending GPA and academic status in a database to track improvement in grades and the rate at which students return to good standing from probation.

**Gen One Academy** - end of year evaluation tracks student learning outcomes, namely if they learned what departments offer what resources on campus. Secondly, if students are returning for sessions, I know that they are finding the program helpful.

**OneGoal** - high school: GPA & SAT score increase; college: enrollment, persistence, & graduation (with proxies along the way like Steps to Success in Academic, Financial, & Social categories during freshman year of college)

**Genesys Works:** We track college enrollment directly after high school, persistence from year to year, 2 year completion and 4 year degree completion. We’re also starting to track credit enrollment status and other related persistence factors