Supporting First Generation Student Success

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Context

1. Attention to need for support for underrepresented or underprepared students
2. A significant population of first generation students, with demonstrable need
3. Some outreach to first generation students

- QuickStart Program
- Trailblazers Workshop, June 2013

- Self-report on Common App RE parent education
- Roughly 25%
1. Attention to need for support for underrepresented or underprepared students

2. A significant population of first generation students, with demonstrable need

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>non-FG</th>
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<tr>
<td>Earn an A in FYS</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earn at least 1 D, F, or W first term</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average first term GPA</td>
<td>2.80</td>
<td>2.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athlete</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
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Four-year graduation rate, class of

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>FG</th>
<th>non-FG</th>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>60.2%</td>
<td>76.0%</td>
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3. Some outreach to first generation students

- 2014-2016 meals with FG staff & faculty
- 2015 peer mentor pilot program

Feasibility grant from Jessie Ball DuPont Fund to research best practices, written by Deans Bryan and Covert, and carried out in 2016
Goals of this talk

Describe

- what we did,
- what we learned, and

Make some recommendations

What we did

1. Background research
   http://libguides.transy.edu/FacultySupportResources/FirstGen
2. Identified similar schools with explicit FG programming
3. Phone interviews (six colleges)
4. Campus visits
   a. Franklin College (SB, MC, TD)
   b. Illinois College (SB)
   c. Bellarmine (TD)
What we learned

1. Goal/Targets of Successful FG Programs
   Balance between addressing challenges and leveraging strengths

2. Common Practices of Successful FG Programs
   - Build proud and explicit self- and group- FG identity
### What we learned

1. Goal/Targets of Successful FG Programs
   - Balance between addressing challenges and leveraging strengths

2. Common Practices of Successful FG Programs
   - Build proud and explicit self- and group FG identity
   - Offer peer and adult mentoring
   - Employ (tapered) intrusive advising and cross-campus collaboration
   - Involve parents

### Recommendations

1. Start collecting stories
2. Capitalize on development opportunity: Donors + external grants
3. Create
   - targeted orientation program that includes a parent component.
   - mentoring / advising / coaching programs that continue throughout first year.

Challenge: Consider unintended consequences of our culture of fostering autonomy