

CUBSFIRST
SUPPORTING FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE APPLICANTS IN JESUIT
SECONDARY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

JESUIT PRINCIPAL'S COHORT GATHERING
NOVEMBER 2018

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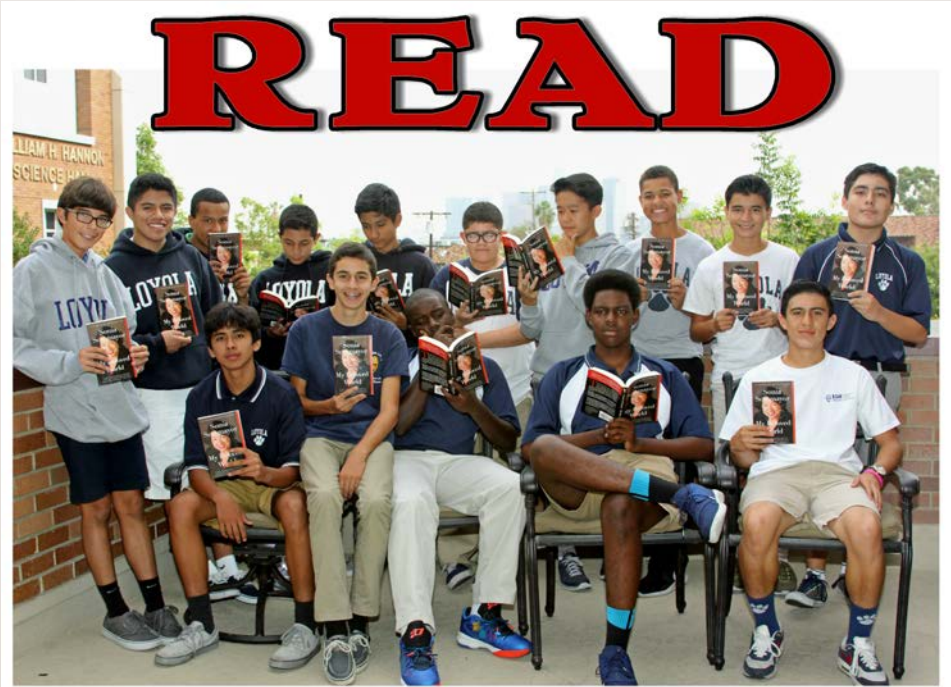
COUNSELOR, LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL LOS ANGELES

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUPPORT COORDINATOR

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How is your school effectively identifying first-generation students and offering a formal support network?
- What do first-generation students perceive as barriers to their educational experiences at your school?
- What are the best ways the school structure can support a seamless educational pipeline and the transition to higher education?
- Why should we care?
- What does a first-generation student look like?

THE FIRST COHORT OF COLLEGE CONNECTIONS CLASS 2015



LHS College Connections 2015

AGENDA

- Introduction to the Research on First-Generation Student Population
 - Definition
 - Identifying the students
 - Stakeholder buy-in
 - Culturally competent counseling
- Program highlights Loyola High School Los Angeles
- Take aways
- Q&A

THREE IMPORTANT STEPS FOR FIRST-GEN STUDENTS WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

- Raising Aspirations for College
 - Connect college to career interests : Career Day, FG Guest Speakers, school-based FG mentors. College visits or college rep speakers, Financial Aid Information
 - Engage the parents/legal guardians
 - Encourage students to take AP/Honors courses
- Navigating the College Selection-Application-Admissions Process
 - Frequent College Counseling Office. Thoroughly walk through with students applications, personal statements, financial aid. Engage the parents/legal guardians.
 - Exposure to broad range of schools and value of fit
- Facilitating Initial Transition to College

WHO ARE FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

- Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Work: a culture of appreciation not a culture of deficit
- First-Generation are disproportionately
 - Students of color
 - Non-native English speakers
 - Immigrants or children of immigrants
 - From single parent households
 - Financially independent of parents, in foster care, homeless or intermittently homeless
 - Receiving significant financial aid at Jesuit high schools

DEFINING FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS

- Higher Education Act of 1965 definition:
 - (A) An individual both of whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree OR
 - (B) In the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from one parent, an individual whose only parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree in the US.
- US Department of Education
 - Student whose parent never enrolled in postsecondary education; no degree after high school
- Our definition at Loyola High School
 - Neither parent/legal guardian has earned a four-year degree in the US

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS ANGELES

- Demographics: 1241 students: 26.35 % Latino, 5.96% African American, 13.86% Asian American, 49.87% Western European, 17.1% FG
- 223 or 17.9% identify as FG: 50% Latino, 7.6% African American, 20.6% Asian American, 19.3% Western European , 2.6% Other
- Location: Loyola is a tuition based Jesuit institution founded in 1865 located in downtown Los Angeles
- 117 faculty and administrative staff
- Honors Courses: 11
- AP Courses: 33

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS ANGELES

- Identifying First-Generation Students
- How we went about the process (action-research project—interviews/focus groups with small sample of seniors in 2014)
- Materializes as the College Connections Summer Course for rising freshman students; The First-Generation Student Association; School leadership support; Support for standardized test prep; support for college tours; university partnerships
- Destigmatization of First-Generation status
- Guest Speakers for FGSA, Career Day

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE AT LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS ANGELES

- If you build it they will come
- College Connections Summer Class/ University Partnerships/ Student Association
- Parent Engagement
 - Banquet, Thanksgiving Mass, Financial Aid Evening, FAFSA night, Freshman Parent Welcome events
- Engage FG Alum: Participate in Summer College Connections, Speak at FGSA meetings, Career Day, and receptions
- Use Social Media/School Newspaper/School Magazine

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS ANGELES

- Campus Stakeholder Buy-In
 - Identify
 - Student population and multiple identities they inhabit. FG students are not uni-dimensional
 - Through the lived experience of the students identify where the gaps are for them
 - How intentional service aligns with the Jesuit mission
 - Engage allies and champions

LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL OF LOS ANGELES

NEXT STEPS

- Create reliable tracking of FG alums
 - Contact alums regarding college persistence, barriers, and facilitators
 - Survey alums to discern their college experiences which will inform communication with university partners, and Loyola program support
 - Create a senior workshop—College Bridge Workshop
 - Track attrition of FG students and reasons
 - More effectively engage and involve FG parents

TAKEAWAY

- We are really talking about continuity of care and alignment of practice with Jesuit values
- Who are the allies at your school?
- Identify student population/ conduct research on student experiences
- Look at existing programmatic support—if there is none develop it...
- Assess their academic performance and target support in needed areas

QUESTIONS?

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