

First Scholars Network:

Joining a Community of Practice for First-generation Student Success

Thank you for joining our Information Session.

First Scholars Network

Information Session Objectives

- Foster an understanding of the critical significance of first-generation student success initiatives.
- Illuminate the role of the Center, particularly through the First Scholars Network, as a valuable partner in advancing this important work.
- Provide clarity on the process for joining the Network, along with the array of resources available to support your success in this endeavor.

Network Experts



Sarah
E. Whitley, PhD
Vice President



Stephanie
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Assistant Vice President



Zachery
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Assistant Director
Network Recruitment



Ashlee
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Associate Director
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Marie
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Kyle
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Garrett
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Associate Director
Network Operations

**CENTER FOR
FIRST-GENERATION
STUDENT SUCCESS[®]**

AN INITIATIVE OF NASPA AND THE SUDER FOUNDATION





MISSION

We provide data, training, and expertise for a growing network of colleges and universities around the country to scale and sustain the important work of serving first-generation students.

VISION

Transforming higher education to drive first-generation student success effectively and equitably across education, career, and life.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**Connect and
Recognize**



**Knowledge Creation &
Evidence-based
Practices**



**Thought Leadership &
Advocacy**



First Scholars Network



First Scholars Network

Goal

The First Scholars Network creates innovative approaches, drives evidence-based solutions, and provides learning and development to advance systemic, scalable impact in improving first-generation student success.

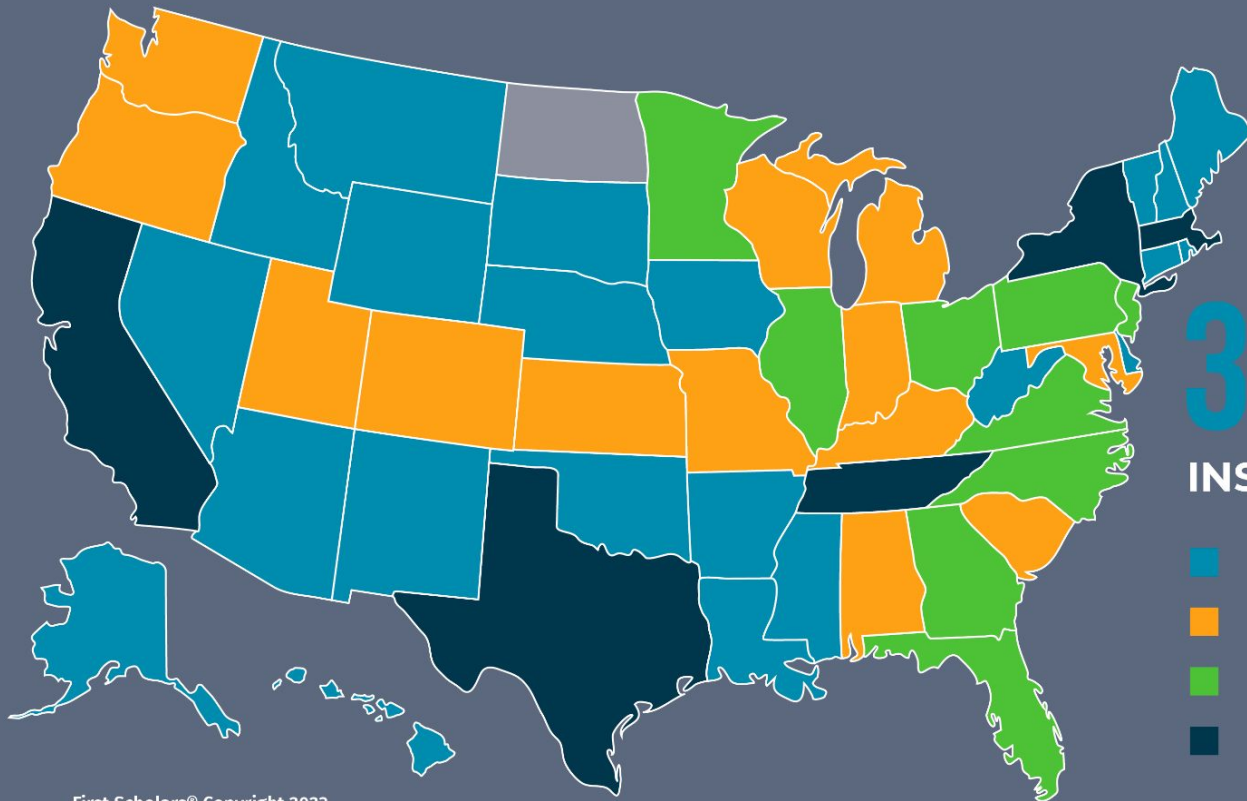


Objectives

- **Signature Programs:**
Strategies and services that provide support to scale first-generation student success.
- **Innovative support:**
Institution specific initiatives to drive data informed decision-making.

CENTER FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

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349

INSTITUTIONS

- 1-4 Institutions
- 5-9 Institutions
- 10-14 Institutions
- 15+ Institutions

49

STATES +
the District of
Columbia

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Importance of Our Work

5 million

Today, more than a half of America's undergraduate students – 5 million – are FirstGen.

30%

FirstGen students are nearly 30% less likely to graduate than their continuing-generation peers.

Increase

The number of FirstGen students entering college is only projected to grow over the next decade.

Unique Challenges and Opportunities

No one-size-fits all approach to scaling first-generation student success...

INSTITUTION LEADERSHIP

It is important to understand the institution's current climate before making recommendations and creating outcomes.



University of the Incarnate Word
Celebration Day 2023

Network Journey



Building a Foundation
One Year



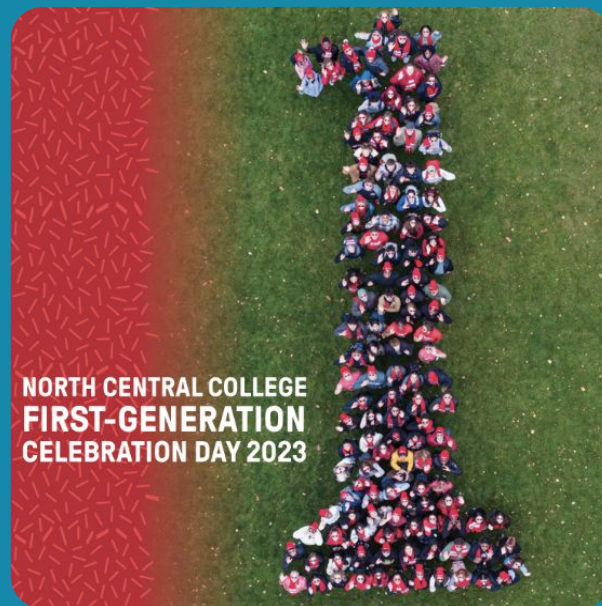
Personalized Experience
Two years



Champion the Work
Continuous

Building a Foundation

In year one of the First Scholars Network, institutions commit to developing a comprehensive understanding of first-generation student success through specialized curriculum and community of practice.



One Year Experience

Network Member
Readiness and Progress Audit
Institution Engagement

Personalized Experience



As an institution advances through the Network we provide a holistic approach that includes institution tailored strategies. We approach this work with the understanding that the entire institution needs to be committed to first-generation student success.

Two Year Experience

Champion the Work

As a national leader in advancing first-generation efforts and contributes to an important knowledge base on evidence-based practices, leadership engagement, and scaling supports.



Continuous

Network Experience



**Community
of Practice**



**Celebrate
and Recognize**



**Goal Setting
and Reporting**



**Learning &
Development**

Community of Practice

We facilitate opportunities to maximize engagement throughout your Network journey. In addition to community building, institutions join a dynamic network of practitioners and scholars.



Monthly workshops build connection



Network and learn through Regional Communities



Learning Hubs in Basecamp

Network Member

Readiness and Progress Audit
Community of Practice


Celebrate and Recognize

- Host a First-generation College Celebration
- Author a blog post for the Center website



INVESTING IN FIRST-GEN SUCCESS ONE PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRAM AT A TIME

Kent State University employs a campus-wide effort to help make graduation happen for first-generation students.

 Melanie Jones, M.Ed. / April 13, 2022



FIRST-GEN STUDENT ORGANIZATION CREATES BADGE OF HONOR AT UNK

UNK is proud of its bold students who continue to rise to the challenge and set a great example for future generations.

 Kyle Means / April 13, 2022

Institutional Goal Setting and Reporting



Goal Setting Workshop
Summer 2024



Two goals are required per
institutions

Professional Development Exclusives

- **Conference Programs:** Network exclusive events offered at select NASPA conferences
- **Center Online Learning:** Deeply discounted live and on-demand webinars.
- **e-Learning Modules:** A self-paced learning library that expands resources and grows practice.



Network Eligibility

- Be an active, accredited, two-year or four-year institution of higher education, and located within the United States;
- Be a NASPA Institutional member
- Primary contacts and one cabinet-level leader with a FREE NASPA member profile *(instructions to verify/create included in the application)*
- Secure cabinet-level leadership support and commitment to participation;
- Designate a minimum of two currently employed faculty and/or staff, plus at least one cabinet-level leader, to serve as the your institution's leadership team *(additional faculty/staff are welcome to participate in programming);*
- Commit to fulfilling the Required Experiences



Network Member
Readiness and Progress Audit
Leadership Support

No Cost to Apply

There are no annual fees nor a cost to apply to the ***First Scholars Network***. However, two of our requirements do have a cost associated with them:



NASPA Institutional Membership

Varies by Institution; often already paid



Professional Development

Three hours are required but the cost vary based on how the institution elects to fulfill these hours.



Readiness and Progress Audit

You will apply through the Readiness and Progress Audit (RPA). The Readiness and Progress Audit is a tool utilized throughout the First Scholars Network.



Collect longitudinal progress data



Institutional data



Detail campus-wide efforts to support first-generation students



Reflect on successes and challenges

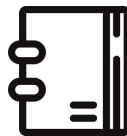
Resources

Supporting submission of the
Readiness and Progress Audit.



E-Learning Module

Online tutorial to support your
submission



Content Guide

PDF to support your responses



Meet with our Team

Email us at
FirstScholarsNetwork@naspa.org

Selection

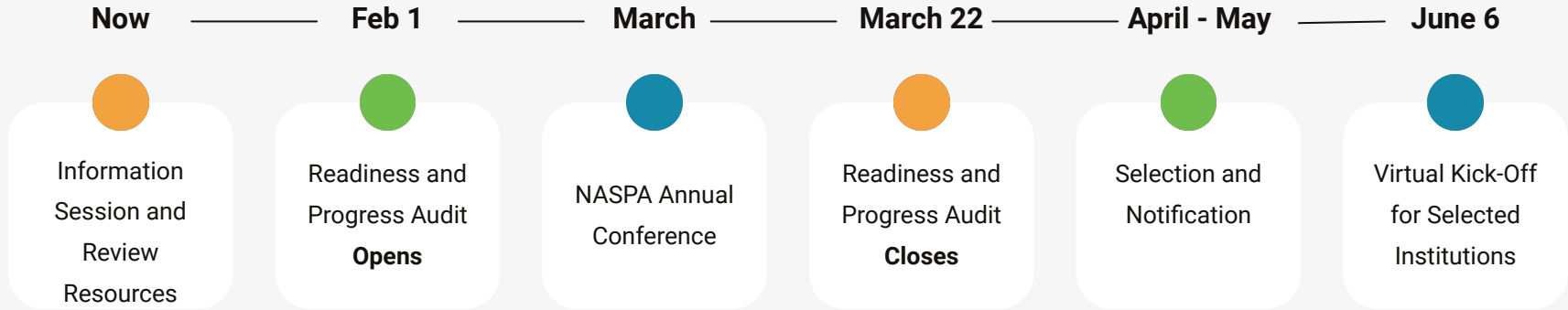
The Readiness and Progress Audit takes time to submit and doesn't guarantee selection. Thoughtful and intentional completion, provides essential context when considering Network selection.

Ensure you have complete responses, you do not need to actively be pursuing each area.

Demonstrate your Institutions commitment throughout your responses.

Identify opportunities to utilize data to support this work and progression in the Network.

Network Member Timeline



Thank you!

Questions: Please email the First Scholars Network at FirstScholarsNetwork@naspa.org.

Meet with us: We are happy to meet with you when it is convenient for you, send us an email for us to schedule!

Remain Connected: Join our newsletter distribution at bit.ly/CenterNewsletterSignUp

Reminder: Apply to join the First Scholars Network by the deadline **March 22, 2024 at 11:59 PM PT**