



FGCC SAMPLE APPLICATIONS

The Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the Center for First-generation Student Success (Center) are pleased to open the 2021 First-Generation College Celebration (FGCC) Grant Opportunity to support your organization's plans to #CelebrateFirstGen! This annual event occurs every year on November 8 – the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 - and is a national celebration of the identities and contributions of first-generation college students and graduates. For more information, please visit bit.ly/CelebrateFirst-Gen.

Grant Opportunity recipients will be awarded up to \$500.00 (USD) to increase their capacity to:

- reach more first-generation students and graduates;
- engage more community members;
- launch a new program, event, or initiative, and/or
- provide additional services surrounding the First-Generation College Celebration.

Priority will be given to entrants whose applications detail creative, collaborative, and engaging Celebrations that demonstrate ability to scale up to reach more first-generation students. This packet includes examples of strong grant applications that can serve as models for future submissions.

This application will close on **Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 11:59pm ET.**

[Click Here to Submit Your Grant Application!](#)

SAMPLE #1

In 300 words or less, use the space below to share details about your FGCC Celebration plans.

We will launch our inaugural First-Generation College Celebration using a creative theme and cross-collaboration. Activities for the week will focus on engaging students each day using a daily theme. Cross-collaboration for the virtual week will include our TRIO McNair Scholars Program, Title III HBCU Programs, and our newly funded TRIO Regular and STEM Student Support Services Programs. During the week, first-generation students will receive special time and assistance to complete their FAFSA, and first-generation college seniors will have an opportunity to receive assistance with applying to graduate or professional school. The first-generation students will also participate in outreach activities and community service projects by assisting local area TRIO Upward Bound students to complete their FAFSA. To scale up efforts, we will partner with Image Think, a graphic recorder, who will help us to develop organizational transformations at the university related to first-generation students by designing hand-drawn infographics, creating first-generation journey maps, developing time lapse animations and brand merchandise. Lastly, first-generation students will be engaged in Speed Networking throughout the week. Speed Networking, a structured process for facilitating introductions and conversation between people who don't know each other, will allow first-generation students to meet a lot of people in a short amount of time.

Do these plans include any cross-campus collaborations or partnerships? If so, please share specific details about the collaborations or partnerships.

The Title III Programs will provide funding for the graphic recorder. McNair Scholars Program will assist first-generation students who are seniors with applying for graduate or professional school. The TRIO SSS Programs will provide community service hours to students who assist high school Upward Bound students with their FAFSA. A First-Generation College Students Club will be formed, officers will be elected, and the club members will be involved in all decision-making processes for the First-Generation College Celebration Virtual Week. In addition, there are several institutional commitments which will include the Informational Technology Department contributing the virtual platform, the Financial Aid Office contributing time and resources to assist with FAFSA, and the Division of Graduate Studies contributing time and resources to assist with graduate school applications.

Please share how these funds will support your celebration.

The funds requested will be used to purchase boxes and art supplies to create boxes as proposed in the virtual week. The boxes will be created by the first-generation students and will serve as memorabilia of the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration Virtual Week.

SAMPLE #2

In 300 words or less, use the space below to share details about your FGCC Celebration plans.

Our First-Generation College Celebration will be a weeklong event. This event will provide proud first-generation graduates and college students the opportunity to share their unique stories of success, being the first in their families to go to college and/or earn a college degree. The event will be open to current TRIO students participating in TRIO programs under our TRIO umbrella network. Throughout the week we will have different panelists (i.e., TRIO Alumni) share their unique stories of success. The celebration schedule will be as follows. Day 1: Celebration Kick-Off Event will be introduced to participants and a schedule of events for the week will be provided. I am First Gen X Contest Challenge will also be introduced, consisting of submitting either a photo, 1-minute video, or artwork that expresses what it means to be a first-generation student. The top 5 submissions will be presented at the Closing Ceremony. Day 2: "I am a First-Generation College Student." Current TRIO college students will share their experiences traversing challenges and college success during a pandemic and navigating and succeeding in institutions of higher education. Day 3: "A Glimpse in the Life of a TRIO College Graduate." TRIO college graduates will share their college success stories, discuss life after college, how they achieved academic expectations as a first-generation student, and the importance of joining student support programs and building a network while in college. Day 4: "TRIO Professionals in the Workforce: Against all Odds." Alumni who were product of TRIO programs such as Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search will share their college to career success stories. Day 5: Closing Ceremony - As a wrap-up, we will be celebrating first-generation students, their success and perseverance. The top 5 submissions of the First-Gen X Contest Challenge will be presented.

Do these plans include any cross-campus collaborations or partnerships? If so, please share specific details about the collaborations or partnerships.

We will partner and collaborate with the 12 TRIO programs under our umbrella network.

Please share how these funds will support your celebration.

The funds will help support the interactive activities we will be providing throughout our weeklong celebration series. Attendees who participate in our First-Gen X Contest Challenge will get a chance to win the following prizes: \$100, \$75, \$50 TRIO Gear Swag Bag. In addition, panelists invited to present will be given a \$10 gift card as a thank you for their time and participation. Finally, a Raffle of the Day will happen each day throughout the week, and winners will be able to choose a gift from our TRIO Gear box (i.e., T-shirt, beanie, pen, face mask, draw string backpack).

SAMPLE #3

In 300 words or less, use the space below to share details about your FGCC Celebration plans.

Our First-Gen Week will take place Nov. 2-8 both in person and virtually. We will provide a fun-filled week of activities and learning opportunities to recognize and celebrate the wide range of experiences, identities, and accomplishments of our first-generation students as well as first-generation administrators, faculty, and staff members across the entire campus. Activities will be hosted by First-Generation Student Advising and Student Support Services and will include webinars designed for students, faculty, and staff. We will host the first annual First-Gen Student Conference and this year's theme will be the Power of One. The week will also include the second annual Tri-Alpha Induction Ceremony and will include family engagement activities designed to inform and educate families on the first-generation student experience. Additionally, the week will serve as the official semester closing of two new initiatives. Two mini-research grants will be awarded to two first-generation undergraduate students to assist them in engaging in undergraduate research. Random drawings for technology-related products will be held for active participants.

Do these plans include any cross-campus collaborations or partnerships? If so, please share specific details about the collaborations or partnerships.

Current plans include cross-campus collaborations, which include the following:

- Public Relations--news story highlighting First-Gen Week.
- Student Organizations & Involvement--First-Generation Student Organization highlight published in the monthly Student Involvement newsletter during week.
- Office of the President--letter from the President sent on National First Gen Day to all first-year, first-generation students recognizing their commitment to education and celebrating their accomplishments.
- Center for Education and Learning and Teaching and the Advising Network will host a webinar, "Best Practices for Teaching and Advising First-Generation College Students," on November 3
- Undergraduate Research and Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), First-Gen Faculty Researchers to host an undergraduate research panel on November 3 for first-generation students to promote research, how to identify opportunities, and mentorship opportunities. Two mini-research grants of \$200.00 to two first-generation students will be awarded.
- Student Support Services-Office of Institutional Diversity & Institutional Bias Incidence and Support Office will host First-Gen Conversations on Nov. 5, topic: First-Generation Intersectionality-a discussion on "first generation-plus" and First-Generation Student Conference-in person and virtual options available for students to participate in an undergraduate or graduate/professional school tracks on November 7.

- Parent and Family Programs will produce a Cat Chat e-Newsletter for all families of first-gen Parent and Family Association members.
- Division of Student and Academic Life to host a “Coffee with the Chronicle” November 6, to discuss a *Chronicle of Higher Education* article focusing first-generation student success.
- First-Generation Student Organization will host a special meeting in recognition of First-Gen week on November 4.
- First-Generation Student Conference—in-person and virtual options will be available for students to participate in an undergraduate track or graduate/professional school track on November 7.
- Student Support Services--Alpha Alpha Alpha Honor Society new member Induction Ceremony scheduled for November 8.

Please share how these funds will support your celebration.

If awarded the First-Generation College Celebration Grant, the additional funds of \$500 will be used for the purchasing of first-gen graduation cords for first-gen December graduates and First-Generation Faculty and Staff Advocate buttons.

SAMPLE #4

In 300 words or less, use the space below to share details about your FGCC Celebration plans.

Our First-Generation College Celebration will include a 4-day series of events that recognizes and uplifts the first-generation college identity across students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Beginning on day one, a virtual first-generation gala event would take place that recognizes an outstanding first-generation student/alum for their achievements and a faculty/staff member for their continued advocacy and support of first-generation college students. Additionally, one student will receive a scholarship award to pursue a high-impact practice learning experience. We anticipate the gala concluding with the announcement of a new scholarship fund. Day two follows with a rebranding of our first-generation initiative featuring a revamped logo created by first-generation college students. A snapchat geo-filter will highlight this logo and first-gen swag and snacks will be provided to students. On day three, we will host our first-ever first-generation college student panel, where panelists will share their experiences navigating college, resources used, and lessons learned with other first-generation student peers. The 4-day series will close with an invitation to first-generation college students, faculty, and staff to attend a virtual conversation with a notable first-generation speaker followed by Q&A. Throughout this series of events, there will be a concurrent Instagram takeover managed by first-generation college students, faculty, and staff, who will share more about their first-generation college pride, experiences, and what the first-generation college identity means to them.

Do these plans include any cross-campus collaborations or partnerships? If so, please share specific details about the collaborations or partnerships.

We will partner with the Odyssey Program, Center for Race Ethnicity and Diversity Education, the Gender and LGBTQIA Center, and the Global Education Center to help expand our efforts to reach the broader University community.

Please share how these funds will support your celebration.

We will use these funds to supply shirts, stickers, pens, buttons, and snacks that will be provided to students to celebrate the first-generation college student identity. These items, in addition to the Snapchat filter, will also promote the re-branding of our first-generation initiative and raise awareness of the National First-Generation College Celebration. Student/alum and staff/faculty members who will be recognized at the gala will be awarded a framed certificate purchased with grant funds.

SAMPLE #5

In 300 words or less, use the space below to share details about your FGCC Celebration plans.

Student voice is a highlight of this year's celebration and we will invite students to share how they have persevered through various obstacles and challenges, including the shift to virtual learning platforms, and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The institution's TRIO programs, which include Student Support Services, Veterans Upward Bound and Upward Bound (Classic), will lead the institution's efforts to celebrate the accomplishments, persistence and academic achievement of first-generation college students and staff through:

- A social media campaign featuring student "selfie" videos to be posted during November;
- A virtual town hall panel discussion featuring first-gen students and staff that highlights the institutional supports for first-gen students and their needs;
- A promo-style video that will feature programs and services on campus that support and promote first-generation student achievement;
- Providing student participants in the First-Gen celebrations with copies of the late Congressman John Lewis' 2020 book with Jon Meacham, "His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope," as encouragement during this difficult period.

Do these plans include any cross-campus collaborations or partnerships? If so, please share specific details about the collaborations or partnerships.

We will work with other programs serving first-generation students within our unit to identify and spotlight individual student success stories. Further, we will partner with campus offices and programs to develop and promote a strong, positive picture of the student experience. The collaboration will include:

- Marketing and Creative Services (MCS);
- Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (OSEL);
- The campus public access television network, and
- The campus bookstore.

Please share how these funds will support your celebration.

Students will receive a motivational book about overcoming adversity and spreading hope. The motivational book is "His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope" Kindle Edition. Students will also receive shirts to memorialize the event.