

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Bill Barker (NASPA)

bbarker@naspa.org

(202) 719-1188



Center for First-generation Student Success awarded \$548k grant to aid higher education institutions' data sharing and analysis

Washington, DC (January 13, 2022) - The [Center for First-generation Student Success](#), an initiative of NASPA and The Suder Foundation, will provide better data, analysis, and metrics available to its First Scholars Network® colleges and universities with the support of a \$548,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant provides the support necessary to transition all cohorts of the First Scholars Network to the National Student Clearinghouse's Postsecondary Data Partnership (PDP), an effort to facilitate better outcomes for all students by helping colleges capture and use more comprehensive data about student progress, early momentum, and degree completion while creating efficiencies and reducing duplicative data submissions at the state and national levels.

"The PDP is the premier data partnership available today," said Sarah E. Whitley, assistant vice president with the Center for First-generation Student Success, NASPA. "With this support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we will be able to offer greater support and resources, an improved data sharing and reporting experience, and strengthened comparative analysis for all of our First Scholars Network institutions."

"This move to the PDP will help our First Scholars Network institutions 'understand data and turn it into action,' helping student success and completion for thousands of first-generation students," Whitley added.

As the Center for First-generation Student Success' signature initiative, First Scholars provides institutions of higher education with an ecosystem of opportunities, tools, resources, and guidance that results in institutional transformation and holistic student support with the common goal of advancing first-generation student outcomes.

"With over one-third of today's students being first-generation, it's imperative that we maximize the data available and make informed decisions that support improved outcomes," said Kevin Kruger, president and CEO for NASPA. "We are grateful for the support of the Bill & Melinda

Gates Foundation in our efforts to ensure first-generation student success through degree completion and beyond.”

###

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS

The Center is the premier source of evidence-based practices, professional development, and knowledge creation for the higher education community to advance the success of first-generation students. Based in Washington, DC, the Center aims to acknowledge the intersectional experiences of first-generation college students. It offers an outlet for sharing cutting-edge research and current media conversations, opportunities for engagement through online learning, conferences, and events, and access to a bevy of programs and services intended to improve first-generation initiatives across higher education.

ABOUT NASPA

NASPA is a member-centered association supporting a diverse and passionate network of 15,000 professionals and 1,200 institutions across the globe. It is the professional home for the field of student affairs and is dedicated to cultivating student success in collaboration with the missions of its institutional members—a network of colleges and universities representing every sector of higher education.