

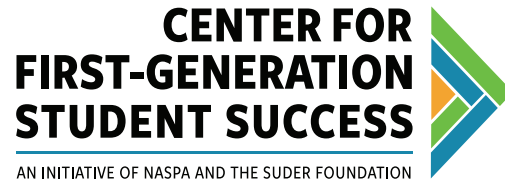


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **The Suder Foundation Amplifies Investment in First-generation Student Success**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**, (May 28, 2020) - NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education is pleased to announce a multi-year partnership with The Suder Foundation to expand and scale First Scholars<sup>®</sup>, a strategic initiative designed to increase persistence and completion for first-generation students enrolled at American colleges and universities. This new agreement builds upon the work of NASPA and The Suder Foundation for the creation of the Center for First-generation Student Success<sup>®</sup> (Center).

*“The outstanding successes resulting from our three-year partnership and the tremendous advances the Center is now leading across higher education were driving factors in elevating our work with NASPA. Deborah and I genuinely believe that concentrating resources toward systemic institutional shifts and strengthening scalable holistic support will dramatically increase the numbers of first-generation students completing a degree and leading fulfilling lives,”* said Eric Suder, president and co-founder of The Suder Foundation.

Rooted in the belief that first-generation success is only found through sustained institutional commitment paired with scalable approaches to student programmatic efforts, First Scholars<sup>®</sup> utilizes data-informed actionable outcomes, institutional inventories, and a series of in-person and virtual engagements to produce a customized roadmap for institutions to address student outcomes for their first-generation students. NASPA and The Suder Foundation are pleased to announce that 38 institutions have committed to this newly designed, comprehensive experience.

According to Dr. Kevin Kruger, president and CEO of NASPA, *“We continue to be grateful to Eric and Deb Suder for their faith in our partnership and their unwavering generosity and commitment to foster success for first-generation students. This partnership will provide the*

*Center with innumerable opportunities to meet the national imperative for producing a highly-qualified workforce where first-generation graduates are key contributors.”*

Since launching in 2017, the Center for First-generation Student Success<sup>®</sup> has emerged as the premier resource for thought leadership, professional development, and evidence-based practice to support institutional efforts to advance the success of first-generation students. The Center features a robust [website](#) that serves as a clearinghouse for scholarship, exemplary practice, and community connections for all of higher education. In addition to expanding these supports and services and advancing First Scholars<sup>®</sup>, the Center will provide expanded research offerings to include an academic peer-reviewed journal, a broadened policy agenda, a speaking engagement program, and more.

To learn more about the Center for First-generation Student Success<sup>®</sup>, visit [firstgen.naspa.org](http://firstgen.naspa.org).

*NASPA—Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education is the leading association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs profession. Its work provides high-quality professional development, advocacy, and research for 15,000 members in all 50 states, 25 countries, and 8 U.S. territories. Visit [naspa.org](http://naspa.org) for more information.*

*The Center for First-generation Student Success<sup>®</sup> 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. Through four strategic priority areas, the Center drives higher education innovation and advocacy for first-generation student success.*