

First Gen Student Initiatives @ Illinois

March 11, 2024

***Illinois Student Assistance Commission
1st Annual First Gen Symposium***

Welcome & Introductions



Domonic Cobb
Assistant Vice Chancellor
for Student Success,
Inclusion & Belonging



Kimberly Alexander-Brown
Executive Director, Office of
Minority Student Affairs and
Director, TRIO Programs

Welcome & Introductions



Jennifer Mendez

Director, First-Generation
Student Initiatives
& OMSA Leadership Team

Focus Areas: Identity-based Programming,
Alumni Engagement, Study Abroad,
and Career Coaching

She/Her/Ella

First Gen | UIUC Alum | Multilingual

Symposium Alignment

- Actively seeking to **increase belongingness** among first-generation college students
- **Developing events** tailored to first-generation students
- Understand the **power of storytelling** behind first-generation student success and graduation

Today's Focus

- **Illinois Highlights**
 - Systematic & Evidence-based Efforts to Increase Sense of Belonging
 - Event Planning
 - Storytelling & Continued Engagement

Increasing Sense of Belonging



First Scholars Network Journey



The #FirstScholarsNetwork is a journey for institutions of higher education, a national scaling model that brings together higher education leaders from around the country to share data, model innovation, and scale impact to first-gen student support

TRANSFORMING YOUR INSTITUTION WITH FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS.

Credit: <https://firstgen.naspa.org/programs-and-services/first-scholars-network>

Continuous Improvement Example

Institution Focus Area:

- Reducing graduation gaps by 2030

Goals:

- Expand knowledge and participation for first-generation support services.
 - Improve campus process for identifying and serving first-generation students
-

Event Planning

The Proud to Be First-Gen. Series Presents:

FIRST GEN RESOURCE FAIR



FEATURED UNITS:

- Writer's Workshop
- Counseling Center
- McKinley Health Center
- International Education
- Grainger Library IDEA Lab
- First-Gen. Student Initiatives
- Library Research Consultations and more!

OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS AND MAJORS

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Main Library Orange Room
1408 W. Gregory Dr. Champaign, IL 61820

4:00pm - 6:00pm



First Scholars INSTITUTION

I Student Affairs
Office of Minority Student Affairs

firstgen.illinois.edu

Leading efforts
from

virtual only



once per year



semester-long
programming



I Student Affairs
Office of Minority Student Affairs



The Proud to be First-Gen. Series Presents:
Graduate School Affirmation Workshop

*In collaboration with the TRIO McNair Program
& Gies College of Business*

 **February 21st, 2024**
5pm - 7pm

 **BIF 3rd Floor - Room 3039**
515 E. Gregory Drive
Champaign, IL 61820

firstgen.illinois.edu

SCAN ME



Free food provided

First Scholars INSTITUTION



**NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION DAY
CELEBRATION & PANEL DISCUSSION
WEDNESDAY NOV. 8TH, 2023**

● **PRE-PANEL NETWORKING & ACTIVITIES**
Illini Union Ballroom, 6:00-7:00pm

Join the First-Generation Team for pre-panel activities including a Letter Writing Activity, Networking & Social Activity, Resource Tabling, Games, Prizes, Giveaways, and more!

● **PANEL & CAMPUS RECEPTION**
Illini Union Ballroom, 7:00-8:00pm

Join the First-Generation Team for a delicious meal and hear from some of the University of Illinois's best and brightest First-Generation students, staff, and alumni! Stick around to the end for a chance to win some premium Illini Swag!

 Student Affairs
Office of Minority Student Affairs

Proud to Be First-Gen. Series
Fall 2023

AUG.
OMSA First-Gen. Welcome Tabling
August 23rd, 10:00am - 12:00pm @ La Casa
First-Gen. Connections
August 31st, 1:30pm-2:30pm @ La Casa

SEP.
Health Literacy Workshop
September 18th, 2:00pm-3:00pm @ La Casa
First-Gen Community Gathering
September 27th, 4pm-6pm @ Chez Veterans Center

OCT.
First-Gen Resource Conversations
October 3rd, 2:00pm - 3:00pm @ WRC lounge
First-Gen Study Tables
October 23rd 4:00pm-6:00pm @ Hub Building 3003

NOV.
National First-Gen Summit
November 4th, Babson College @ Boston, MA
National First-Gen Day Celebration
November 8th, 6:00-8:00pm @ Illini Union Ballroom

DEC.
Alma We Made It: First-Gen De-stress Program
December 9th @ BNAACC

To RSVP and check out more resources visit firstgen.illinois.edu

 Student Affairs
Office of Minority Student Affairs

First Scholars
INSTITUTION

PROUD TO BE
First Gen.

**NATIONAL FIRST-GENERATION DAY
DUNKIN' & COCOA ON THE QUAD
Monday Nov. 6th, 2023**

DUNKIN' DONUTS & PHOTO BOOTH
Main Quad, Anniversary Plaza
11:00am - 1:00pm



Storytelling & Continued Engagement

First Generation Online Community Directory



Student Affairs

First-Generation Students

First-Generation Directory Interest Form

Thank you for your interest in joining! This directory is aimed at creating a centralized place online where the Illinois campus resources, events/programs, and locate mentors who also identify as First-Generation.

Proud to be **FIRST Gen** 2022-2023

**-APPLY TODAY-
UIUC First Gen
Online Directory**

<https://go.illinois.edu/UIUCFirstGenDirectory>









Directory

By providing your headshot and answering the first-generation directory interest form you have given express permission to openly display your picture and profile on this website.

[Directory Interest Form](#)

Directory category:

- Any
- Part-time Staff
- Full-time Staff
- Faculty
- Alumni
- Full-time Undergraduate
- Part-time Graduate
- Full-time Graduate
- Provider
- Visiting Scholar

 <p>Keemiyah Abdulrah-Span Full-time Staff keemiyah@illinois.edu</p>	 <p>John Adams Full-time Graduate johnam4@illinois.edu</p>	
 <p>Mary Albrecht Full-time Staff maryal@illinois.edu</p>	 <p>Lela Aleman Full-time Staff lelaalema@illinois.edu</p>	 <p>Kimberly Alexander-Brown Full-time Staff, Alumni kabrown@illinois.edu</p>
		

Campus Highlights Revisited

- Steering Committee Engaged
 - Working Groups
- New Director Hired
- Proud to be First-Gen Series
- First-gen Website Launched
- Campus level expansion of National First-Gen Day Celebration, November 8th



Steering Committee & Collaborators

- Office of the Provost & Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Office of Minority Student Affairs & TRIO
- Chez Veterans Center
- School of Social Work
- College of Applied Health Sciences
- Student Success, Inclusion, and Belonging (SSIB) Assessment
- Faculty - Sociology
- Women's Resources Center
- First Gen Student Initiatives
- Student representatives - Undergraduate & Graduate

Special thank you to ISAC's First Generation Scholars Network for its continued support of our on-campus programming - particularly with the many ongoing changes with FAFSA!

COME JOIN OUR TEAM

Student Success Advisor

First Generation Student Initiatives
Office of Minority Student Affairs



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**Thank you for
your time.**

Open Q&A Time

firstgen@illinois.edu

firstgen.illinois.edu





#ProudtobeFirstGen

