RHODY FIRSTS

Presented by:
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National Conversation

VISION
The Center for First-generation Student Success: Driving higher education innovation and advocacy for first-generation student success.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Connect & Recognize
- Knowledge Creation & Evidence-based Practices
- Innovation & Scalable Approaches
- Thought Leadership & Advocacy

THINK BIG WE DO
THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
33% of higher ed students today are the first in their family to attend college.

U.S. Department of Education

20% of first-generation college students had obtained a bachelor’s degree 10 years after their sophomore year in high school compared to 42% of continuing-generation students.

U.S. Department of Education
What Are Similar Institutions Doing?
First-Generation College Students at URI

STUDENTS WHOSE PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S) DID NOT COMPLETE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE

1 in 3 full-time/first-year students
3 in 4 transfer students
1 in 3 degree-seeking students
Talent Development and First-Generation

- Approximately 25% of the full-time/first-year students are in the TD program.

- As part of the TD program mission, our students are from Rhode Island and come from disadvantaged backgrounds (e.g., lower SES community, history of personal hardship, restricted academic opportunities).

- The focus of the TD program is based on a different level of support needed.

- The TD program does not have the resources to support the additional first-generation students who are not admissible through TD (>3,000 students).
## Retention at URI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Retention</th>
<th>First-generation retention rate</th>
<th>Multi-generation retention rate</th>
<th>Difference (in percentage points)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Year (2017 cohort)</td>
<td>79.8%</td>
<td>85.1%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Year (2016 cohort)</td>
<td>87.3%</td>
<td>92.6%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Year (2015 cohort)</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
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What Can URI Do?

First-generation college students need customized attention and support that differs from students whose parents have earned a degree. They need to feel like they belong at their college or university and deserve to be there.

Higher education, with its unique culture, language and history, can be difficult for first-generation college students to understand. Students whose parents have attended college benefit from their parents’ experiences.

Colleges and universities have the ability to redesign their institutional cultures, teaching practices and academic support services to be more inclusive of first-generation college students.

*Linda Banks-Santilli, June 3, 2015
Associate Professor of Education, Wheelock College
RHODY FIRSTS Coordinator

- Support and enhance the university’s initiatives to recruit and retain first-generation students
- Enhance the university culture to also ensure student success for first-generation students
- Establish greater opportunities to connect with faculty
- Establish student organizations and mentoring opportunities that support first-generation students
- Promote and develop campus-wide awareness and understanding of first-generation student needs and strengths
- Implement events and programming grounded in sense of belonging, retention and graduation for first-generation students

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fringe</td>
<td>$28,320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer/technology</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional development</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program and initiatives</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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</tbody>
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Programming Budget
$20,000

Academic Connection
- Faculty/staff welcoming
- Faculty/staff lunch & learns
- Faculty-student mentoring

Community Building
- Student organization
- Student mentoring
- Celebrating F1RSTS

University Belonging
- Website
- Campus culture
- F1RSTS Visibility
Potential Increase in Revenue for URI

1.25M

4.13M
Social Impact

- Creating national and global citizens and leaders who can leverage their social and cultural capital and inspire their communities to continue to prosper
Conclusion

This position would increase awareness, support and collaboration for our first-generation student population through mentoring programs and by enhancing the culture across campus.

It is critical that URI supports first-generation students’ transition to college, college experience, sense of belonging, connection to their major, and academic self-efficacy.

The goal is to positively impact first-generation students’ motivation and confidence to persist and graduate at URI.
Questions