

# First-Gen Student Success Center

## Mission

The First-Gen Student Success Center will provide community, mentorship, leadership, and scholarship opportunities for first-gen students to increase their retention and graduation rates. The FGSSC serves first-gen students, staff, faculty, and their families by providing first-gen students with the crucial support needed to thrive in their university experience and creating a foundation upon which first-gen students can build success in college and beyond.

## Learning Outcomes

Students who engage with the First-Gen Student Success Center will be able to:

- Understand the definition of first-gen student and the various first-gen student experiences;
- Connect with on-campus resources and services to promote academic success, identity development, and relationship building;
- Participate in the engagement, mentorship, and leadership opportunities available;
- Gain access to scholarship opportunities specifically of first-gen students;
- Support other first-gen students on campus

## Programs and Services

- **First-Gen Messaging:** throughout the year, we send first-gen students reminders of deadlines and provide 'troubleshooting' support for first-gen questions
- **IamFirst LEAD:** a cohort of first-year, first-gen students taking SLSS 100 and participating in service-learning
- **First-Gen Summit:** a student-led, student-centered day to talk about the experiences of first-gen students at UVU and their perspectives.
- **First-Gen Fall & Winter Welcome:** an opening social wherein we utilize first-gen student leadership to facilitate the activities for any and all first-gen students on campus
- **Talk-Story Tuesday & Monthly Skills Workshops:** two series wherein we partner with other staff and departments on campus for students to build their support network and work on their professional development skills
- **Learning Lunch Mentorship Sessions:** these are intimate mentorship sessions wherein one mentor takes out a group of students to talk about their story and how they ended up in their field of work
- **First-Gen Celebration Week:** as part of the National First-Gen Celebration events, we host a weeklong programming event to engage first-gen students, staff, and faculty to celebrate their experiences with the Center
- **First-Gen Networking Banquet:** to conclude the learning lunch and professional development series, we host an evening with first-gen students and professionals to build a community of support for the students
- **First-Gen Graduate Reception:** our annual event to celebrate the crowning achievement of all our first-gen students

## Key Metrics in 2021

- **\$208,000** Scholarship Monies disbursed to First-Gen Students
- **49,125** Messages from First-Gen Students
- **18,416** First-Gen Students on our group messaging platform
- **116** First-Gen Students participated in the Learning Lunch Mentorship
- **53** Staff & Faculty as IamFirst Mentors
- **19** First-Gen Scholars in the IamFirst LEAD Cohort

"FGSSC helped me get in touch with people around the university that were able to help me throughout my first year and helped me understand life around the university and made me see the importance of being involved and staying connected which is how I was able to get on the dean's list.

Because of that I was able to gain confidence and find other programs to get involved in and I've been able to build relationships with my mentors. I don't think I would have succeeded without FGSSC because everything I've learned about the university was through this program."

**First-Gen Student,  
Public Relations & Strategic Communications Major**