



First-Generation Student Success

Brandi Phillips

Executive Consultant, Student Success Solutions, RNL

Dr. Ronda Westry

*Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs & Student Success,
and Director of Retention, Alabama State University*



Welcome and introductions

Welcome!



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Executive Consultant,
Student Success Solutions
RNL



Dr. Ronda Westry
Assistant Vice President,
Student Affairs & Student Success
Director of Retention
Alabama State University

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- What do we know about First-Gen students?
- Identifying achievable outcomes
- Questions and comments

RNL First GEN Polls

Where are you from?

What is your role at your institution?

Are you a First-Gen?

What type of programs do you have for First-Gen students at your institution?



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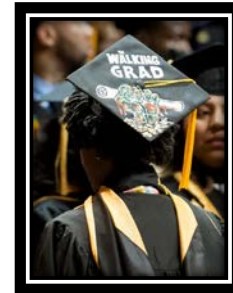
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Alabama State University

Institutional Overview



- 4-year public institution
 - Historically Black College/University
 - Located in historical, downtown Montgomery, AL
 - Awards offered:
 - Bachelor's degree
 - Post-baccalaureate certificate
 - Master's degree
 - Post-master's certificate
 - Doctor's degree-research/scholarship
 - Doctor's degree-professional practice
- 3,965 students
 - 88% undergraduate; 12% graduate
- 60% of students are first-gen
- 94% of students of color





What do we know
about First-Gen
students?

RNL First GEN Polls

What are your perceptions about First-Gen students (in relation to their top requests and need for assistance)?



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TOP 10 REQUESTS: INCOMING FIRST-GEN STUDENTS

2022

Receive help to improve study habits	74%
Help selecting educational plan to get good job	72%
Would like instruction on how to take college exams	71%
Talk with someone about getting a scholarship	70%
Talk about qualifications needed for certain occupations	70%
Meet some new friends at informal gathering	67%
Find out more about clubs and social organizations	61%
Talk with someone about salaries and future occupation	60%
Meet an experienced student to seek advice	58%
Help selecting occupation suited to my interests	56%



RNL First GEN Polls

What dedicated service do you have to assist First-Gen with major-to-career trajectory?



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An empty lecture hall with rows of grey plastic seats and a central aisle leading to a stage. A blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Let's Talk About It...." in white. The floor is a light-colored, speckled tile.

Let's Talk About It....

Academic & Career Planning

National Data on First-Gen Students

- Want help to improve study habits
73% of First-Gen
- Want assistance with selecting education plan to get a good job
72% of First-Gen
- Want to discuss qualifications needed for certain occupations
69% of First-Gen



RNL First GEN Polls

What percentage of First-Gen students are strongly dedicated to finishing their academic program/degree?



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Commitment to College

National Data on First-Gen Students

- Strong desire to continue education
 - 94% of First-Gen**
 - 94% of Non First-Gen**
- Wonder if college is worth the time, money and effort
 - 33% of First-Gen**
 - 27% of Non First-Gen**

***14% of First-Gen Plan to Transfer Prior to Completing Degree**



A group of students is sitting on bleachers in a gymnasium or arena. They are wearing various casual clothing like hoodies, t-shirts, and jeans. Some are holding papers or laptops. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft light source from the side, creating a moody atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this background.

Did You Know?

First-Gen students attain four-year degrees at lower rates (20% vs. 49%).

RNL First GEN Polls

What are some barriers that prevent First-Gens from completing a degree in a timely manner?



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Financial Insecurity

National Data on First-Gen Students

- Have the financial resources to finish college
38% of First-Gen 57% of Non First-Gen
- Have financial problems that are distracting
40% of First-Gen 23% of Non First-Gen
- Pressure to earn extra money will interfere with school
31% of First-Gen 19% of Non First-Gen

Financial Guidance

National Data on First-Gen Students

- Want to discuss getting a loan to help get through school

29% of First-Gen

- Want to discuss getting a scholarship

69% of First-Gen

RNL First GEN Polls

What type of assessments do you use to gauge your First-Gen students' overall sense of wellbeing?



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Sense of Belonging

National Data on First-Gen Students

- Little interest in large social gatherings
34% of First-Gen
- Hard to relax and have fun with a group of people
20% of First-Gen
- Want to meet an experienced student to seek advice
58% of First-Gen

Mental Health and Wellness

National Data on First-Gen Students

Talk with a Counselor about...

- General attitude toward school

24% of First-Gen 17% of Non First-Gen

- Difficulties in social life

19% of First-Gen 15% of Non First-Gen

- Emotional tensions

19% of First-Gen 16% of Non First-Gen

An empty lecture hall with rows of grey plastic seats and a central aisle leading to a stage. A blue horizontal band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Let's Talk About It...." in white. The floor is made of light-colored tiles, and the stage is visible at the end of the aisle.

Let's Talk About It....

A blue-tinted photograph of a university courtyard. In the foreground, there are several stone arches supported by columns. In the background, a large, ornate building with a central dome and a spire is visible. The scene is set outdoors with trees and a lawn. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

How has your institution
addressed First-Gen challenges
through programming at your
institution?



Identifying
achievable
outcomes



Fewer than half of colleges and universities use assessments to identify the needs of incoming students

48%

FOUR-YEAR PRIVATE

44%

FOUR-YEAR PUBLIC

30%

TWO-YEAR PUBLIC

Source: 2021 Effective Practices for Student Success, Retention, and Completion (RNL)

Assessing students delivers key benefits to campuses



- Pinpoint optimal strategies for student success
- Match students to the services that meet their needs
- Increase yield rates
- Identify needs of special populations
- Make advising/success coaching more effective
- Intervene with students before they decide to withdraw

© 2023 National First-Year Students and Their Motivation to Complete College Report
Ruffalo Noel Levitz, LLC

Opportunities for First-Gen Success:

- Meet the needs:
 - Impact retention and graduation rates
 - Support for achieving personal and educational goals
 - Connectedness and belonging
 - *Positively influence future generations*

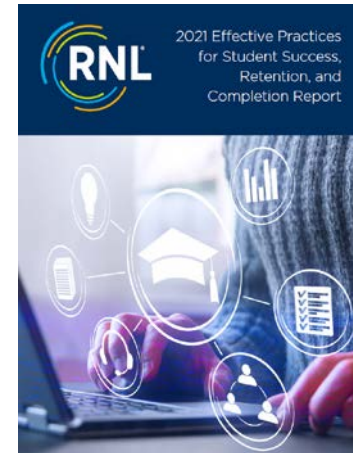
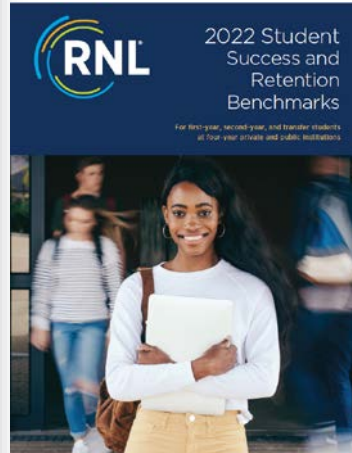
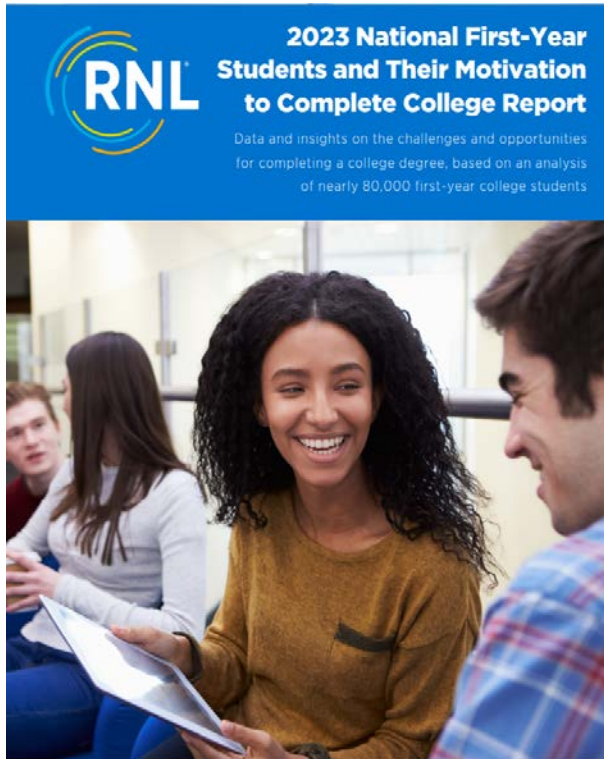
Key Takeaways

- Recognize the number of first-gen students at your institution
- Understand their unique needs
- Identify stakeholders
- Build a comprehensive plan and clear objectives
- Continuous improvement: Assess and re-assess data



Questions and
comments

A focus on college completion initiatives



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We may have Retention Management Survey data on file for your institution . . .

Use this QR code and fill out the Google form.

We will be in touch with a high-level overview of the data we have on file for your institution.



Thank you for joining us today



Dr. Ronda Westry
Alabama State University
Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs &
Student Success, and Director of Retention
Rwestry@alasu.edu



Brandi Phillips
RNL
Executive Consultant, Student Success Solutions
Brandi.Phillips@RuffaloNL.com