First Generation College Students and Retention at the University of Dayton
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Literature on FGCS and Retention
- FGCS in a 4 year institution are twice as likely to drop out after their first year compared to non-FGCS
- Many FGCS also come from families of lower SES
- FGCS do not usually feel support from family and friends who did not attend college
- FGCS enter into lower college with lower aspirations than non FGCS

Methodology
- E-mail was sent to 338 sophomore and up FGCS at UD
- These students indicated on their FAFSA they are FGCS.
  - One-to-One Interviews

Participants
- 6 Students
  - 5 seniors, 1 junior
  - 2 women, 4 men
  - First in their family to attend a four-year institution
  - 2 FG to the United States
  - SES: Low-Lower Middleclass

Results
- All felt supported by their family.
  - Many of the students struggled their first year
  - Many of the students did not quit because they knew they needed a college degree for their career
  - Students want support from UD but do not want to be othered.

"To me, quitting was not an option. People have to make me quit things."
-Sophie

"...my parents have worked so hard to put us through private grade school, private high school, and now college. And turning away from that would just be a slap in the face"
-Quinn

Recommendations
- Section for FGCS on Virtual Orientation that tells FGCS about resources that could be helpful on campus.
- Have point people in Financial Aid, OMA, and the Office of Student Success to mentor/provide assistance to FGCS.
  - Gathering/Dinner for FGCS during New Student Orientation

"Support is helpful but it is not like you have a disability (being a FGCS)"
-Monica