



We are the 6%: First Generation Students in a Multigenerational Campus Environment

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Background

UD is viewed as an affluent institution with more than 90% of its students coming from families with college educated parents. UD has created partnerships with Sinclair, Area High schools and its Upward Bound program which could lead to a dramatic increase in the first generation student population.

Research Questions

1. What are the experiences of the first generation students on the University of Dayton campus?
2. How does the first generation identity shape their experience?
3. How did these students transition to college and what factors contributed to their decision to attend this college?

Methods

- Semi Structured interviews open ended
- Interview questions geared toward the research questions.
- Participants selected through purposeful sampling.

Findings

- First generation students have a more difficult time transitioning to college, from application to move in, and take longer to adjust to the college workload and lifestyle.
- Students here are well served and have very positive experiences, however, it is often tied to their other social identities (e.g . Race, year on campus) rather than first generation status.

Implications

First Generation Students need to be seen! There is a desire for intentionally creating a community for this population.

- Student Organization/Meetings
- Scholarship Opportunities
- First Generation Day Celebration
- Intentional mentoring and preparation programs for first-year First generation students