

First-Gen Zone Call for Proposals



About First-Gen Zone

We invite ASU faculty, staff and graduate students to join us for the second annual First-Gen Zone conference. First-Gen Zone is aimed at informing, empowering and mobilizing ASU faculty and staff regarding the unique experiences of first-generation college students. First-generation students comprise over 35% of the ASU undergraduate and graduate student body. The virtual conference will offer research-based information, tangible tips and actionable steps to faculty and staff who want to enhance their skill set in support of the success of first-generation students. First-Gen Zone will include two outstanding keynote speakers, concurrent sessions addressing a wide array of issues and opportunities, and highlights of existing university programs and initiatives. First-Gen Zone will create an intentional opportunity for the ASU community to exchange ideas and partner. It is envisioned that this conference will spark additional dialogue and support for first-generation students at ASU.

Who Should Submit a Proposal

We are seeking proposals from both faculty and staff who have experience working with first-generation college students. We encourage proposals from diverse groups of professionals, including but not limited to those working in the following areas: student recruitment, K-12 outreach/pipeline, new student and family programs, student retention, student engagement, academic advising, residence life, academic support, financial aid and scholarship services, career and professional development services, TRIO and GEAR UP programs, and wellness. We also welcome proposals from administrators, faculty, researchers, graduate students, and others connected to helping first-generation students be successful at ASU. Our hope is to receive proposals from newer and seasoned professionals alike, and we welcome proposals from individuals at all ASU campuses.

Why Submit a Proposal

- Contribute to the body of knowledge at the university for serving first-generation college students
- Help ASU fulfill its university charter of being “measured not by whom it excludes, but rather by whom it includes and how they succeed”
- University exposure for your ideas and for your college or department
- Professional development

Potential Topics (offered merely as examples; proposals are not limited to these topics)

- Classroom Success
- Communications
- College Preparation
- Engagement
- Finding Community
- First-Gen Families
- First-Gen Plus (Intersectionality)
- First-Gen Strengths
- Graduate Student Support
- Mentorship from Staff or Faculty
- Program Assessment
- Resilience
- Retention and Graduation
- Sense of Belonging
- Student Data Tracking
- Understanding Institutional Jargon and Systems
- Navigating ASU
- Peer Support

Types of Sessions

We are seeking proposals for the following two types of sessions:

- Concurrent Workshops: 45-minute session offering a presentation and/or training on serving first-generation students
- Lightning Talks: 5-to-7-minute overview of an ASU program or service for first-generation students

Selection Criteria

- Thought Provoking - The presentation will stimulate new ideas and/or ways of thinking among audience members. It may even challenge attendees' preconceived notions in some way.
- Interactivity - Attendees will be engaged by the presenter(s), have the opportunity to contribute ideas and/or critique, and won't simply be "talked at."
- Advances the Field - The presentation is timely, and it makes a novel contribution which pushes the boundaries of the field and challenges attendees to reexamine what is possible.
- Action Oriented - This presentation will result in producing deliverables and/or tangible strategies that attendees can implement to support first-generation students.

Proposal Components

- Concurrent Workshops:
 - o Session title (15 words max)
 - o Presenter name(s) and ASU title(s) (recommend no more than 3 presenters)
 - o Session abstract - for use in the conference program (150-200 words)
 - o Session outline – for use of committee review (150-200 words)
 - o Intended audience level
 - o Interactivity - how will you engage the audience? (1 or 2 sentences)
 - o List of key actionable takeaways/learning objectives (beyond awareness)
- Lightning Talks:
 - o Session title (15 words max)
 - o Presenter name(s) and ASU title(s) (recommend 1 presenter)
 - o Session abstract - for use in the conference program (150-200 words)
 - o Session outline – for use of committee review (150-200 words)

Key Dates

- Proposals due: Monday, Aug. 3, 2020 by noon
- Proposal notices sent: Friday, Sept. 18, 2020
- First-Gen Zone registration opens: Sept. 28, 2020
- First-Gen Zone: Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020

Proposal Submission Link: <https://bit.ly/2YpmYVI>

Questions: Contact First-Gen Zone at FirstGenZone@asu.edu

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