

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kessler Scholars Program 2021-22 Evaluation



The second year of the University of Michigan Center for Education Design, Evaluation, and Research's (CEDER) evaluation of the Kessler Scholars Collaborative focused on understanding student outcomes and informing program development.

1 Program Snapshot

The Kessler Scholars Program model provides holistic, wraparound supports for first-generation and limited-income students throughout their four-year college experience. The Kessler Scholars Collaborative is a network that facilitates organizational learning across partner institutions. In the 2021-22 academic year, six institutions participated in the collaborative, with a total of 381 participating Scholars.

TOTAL
STUDENTS
SERVED

381

NUMBER OF
COLLEGES

6



Cornell University



JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY



S Syracuse University

M UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



2 Student Outcomes

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

92% of Kessler Scholars rated their experience as good or excellent.

The Kessler Scholars Collaborative has identified six core areas of student development that inform programming. The goal is that when students graduate from college and the Kessler Scholars Program, they have developed competencies across these six program areas:

OUTCOME ONE

College Navigation & Academic Skill Development

76%

76% of participating Scholars reported that the first-year seminar gave them the skills they can apply in further years of study.

“I feel more connected within the university. Connected with people I know, and I also am more familiar with different resources that I could access.”

- CORNELL UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

OUTCOME TWO

Wellness and Social Emotional Development

82%

82% of Scholars reported that the program encouraged them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

“It has helped us look after our own wellness because we would have a lot of time management workshops. Kessler staff would always tell us to prioritize mental health.”

- QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

OUTCOME THREE

Self-Awareness and Identity Development

78%

78% of Scholars reported that the program helped facilitate their self-exploration and personal development.

“It taught me to embrace my first-generation identity more...[we] should be proud that [we] made it this far and Kessler really focused on that.”

- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

OUTCOME FOUR

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

85%

85% of Scholars reported that the program helped them develop a greater understanding of cultural and social diversity.

“We would talk about current events, like Black Lives Matter and climate change. I feel like it really allowed us to express our feelings and talk about how we feel.”

- QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

OUTCOME FIVE

Leadership Development

93%

93% of peer mentors agreed that their role provided them with valuable leadership experience.

“[As a peer mentor,] you really felt like you were taking care of the future, the future McGuire Scholars. I valued that leadership position.”

- ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

OUTCOME SIX

Career and Professional Development

81%

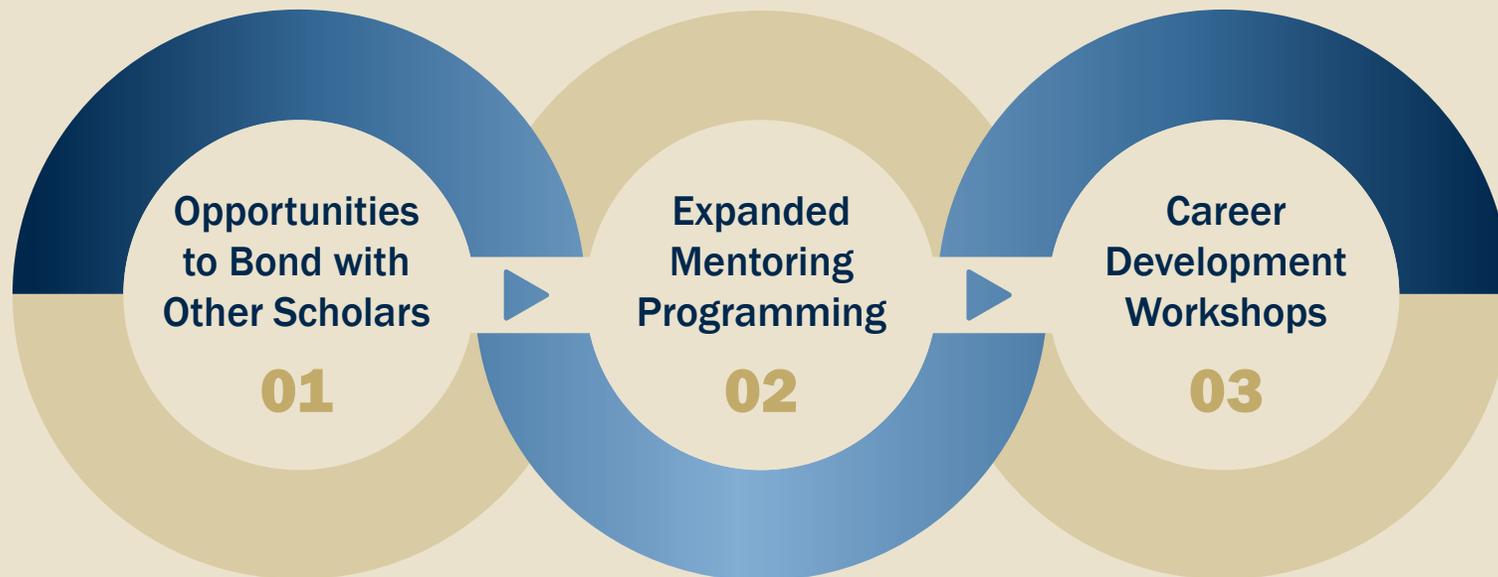
81% of Scholars reported that the program facilitated their academic and career planning.

“I would not have thought to think ahead past my first-year. Going to college, there is a lot to take in, so having an extra advisor making sure I am on the right track was super wonderful.”

- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOLAR

3 Program Development

The CEDER team worked closely with the six partner institutions throughout the 2021-22 academic year to ensure that evaluation findings were responsive, useful, and directly informed programming.



Students at several institutions expressed a desire for more social events or other opportunities to build community with other Kessler Scholars.

“The one change I would make would be having more options for community service opportunities and more scheduled get togethers with all cohorts.”

Students valued the peer mentoring program and provided ideas for expanded mentoring opportunities.

“I am a peer mentor, and I have freshman mentees. But I still sometimes want somebody, like a junior, as my mentor. So, it's like the cycle repeats...you teach the other person what they need to know for the next year.”

Students shared ideas for expanded career development workshop topics, especially on career development topics.

“More workshops geared towards upperclassmen students, possibly job interview prep, would be very helpful.”

