



First-Generation College Celebration Day: A Planning Resource

[First-Generation College Celebration Day](#), held annually on November 8th, was created by the [Council for Opportunity in Education](#) (COE) and the [Center for First-generation Student Success](#) in 2017 to encourage colleges, universities, corporations, non-profits, and K-12 schools to recognize, honor, and celebrate the representation and success of first-generation college students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This day has steadily grown to a week-long celebration featuring at many campuses, workshops, speakers, social media campaigns, and other activities to highlight the first-generation community and promote student success.

We hope you can lead or contribute to the efforts on your campus to connect Kessler Scholars and other first-generation students with campus resources and opportunities to foster a greater sense of belonging and engagement. To support your planning and implementation of first-generation celebration day events and activities on your campus, we've created this document to offer resources, recommendations, and programming ideas for your review.

Recommendations:

- Consider institutional contexts to inform planning and implementation
- Incorporate student voices throughout the planning process
- Explore ways to amplify advocacy efforts to support first-generation students
- Align institutional narratives about first-generation students to recognize and affirm their strengths and many contributions to the institution and community
- Identify and collaborate with colleagues across campus to host events and lead activities

Programming Ideas:

Get creative! There are so many ways to contribute to this celebration through speakers, tailored workshops, first-gen merchandise, and more. Check out the events hosted in the past by colleagues at [Brown University](#), [UNC Chapel Hill](#), and [Washington University in St. Louis](#).

Resources:

- Center for [First-generation Student Success](#) offers [CatalystFIRST](#) speaker list and a [Media Kit](#) in addition to resources and examples of prior first-generation celebration day events. [UCR first-gen zoom backgrounds](#)

If you want to brainstorm ideas and or need recommendations for potential speakers or workshop topics, please contact Shakima at scency@kessler scholars.org. When sharing information about your events on social media platforms, be sure to tag @COEtalk and @FirstGenCenter and use #CelebrateFirstGen and #KesslerScholars!