We are glad you are here!

Enjoy good company and refreshments!

Community-building activities to join:

- Book signing with Dr. Tia Brown McNair
- People Bingo

Please find your assigned table by 6:30

Table designations are on the back of your name badge on the yellow sticker.

FIRST GEN FIRST

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CONVENING

Celebrating a Year of Growth and Distinctive Student Support

- Ten new Kessler Scholars Programs ready for launch

- Unique student engagement across six inaugural campus sites

- Ahead this year: Cross-site student leadership board, new student research opportunities, our emerging community of practice

Thank you for supporting this work:
Judy and Fred Wilpon Family Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies

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Welcome Remarks from Cornell University

Dr. Marla Love

Robert W. and Elizabeth C. Staley Dean of Students, Cornell University

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Our Shared Promise and Possibilities: Elevating Students for Success

Welcome, Dr. Tia Brown McNair

Vice President in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success

Association of American Colleges and Universities

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Looking Ahead to a Day of Learning Together

- Thank you, Dr. Brown McNair!

- Shuttle outside to return to Canopy by Hilton Hotel this evening

- Shuttle will leave from hotel to campus tomorrow at 7:30 a.m.

- Join your program staff buddy over breakfast to begin a day of sharing, learning, and discovery

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Summer Convening Day 2

July 25-26, 2023
Cornell University

Building Connections: Breakfast With a Buddy

Enjoy breakfast and get to know your program staff buddy:

- What did I miss/what were your impressions of the first night?

- What are you most excited about for the academic year ahead?

- Away from work, what else is something that matters to you?

Once you know each other better, introduce your buddy to colleagues at your table!

Meeting WiFi Network:
Join "Cornell Visitor" and then sign up using your name and email address

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Good Morning and Thank You to Cornell University

Welcome From Cornell University: Here We Go!

Dannemart Pierre

Peggy J. Koenig '78 Associate Dean of Students for Student Empowerment

Director of First-Generation & Low-Income Student Support

Program Lead for the Kessler Scholars Program at Cornell

Cornell University Land Acknowledgement

Cornell University is located on the traditional homelands of the Gayog̱ohó:nǫ? (the Cayuga Nation). The Gayog̱ohó:nǫ? are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of six sovereign nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. The confederacy precedes the establishment of Cornell University, New York state, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the painful history of Gayog̱ohó:nǫ? dispossession, and honor the ongoing connection of Gayog̱ohó:nǫ? people, past and present, to these lands and waters.

Thank You, Summer Convening Planning Committee

We extend much gratitude to the Planning Committee for their thoughtfulness and time to ensure a wonderful experience for all participants

Shaula Edwards, Bates College

Hannah Stokes, Centre College

Dannemart Pierre, Cornell University

Nancy Martinsen, Cornell University

Chrystle-Claire Greene, Queens College

Ebony Miles, University of California, Riverside

Shared Work Ahead: Our Convening Goals

- Learn from one another

- Reflect on our collective mission of providing transformational support for first-generation, limited-income college students

- Define our path ahead as a generative community of practice

- Leave energized and with new ideas for the next academic year

Overview of the Day's Agenda

9:30 am: **Student Panel with Cornell and Syracuse Kessler Scholars**

10:45 am: **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

12:15 pm: **Group Photo**

12:30 pm: **Lunch and Evaluation Presentation with Ithaka S+R**

2:15 pm: **Afternoon Working Session: Where We've Been and Where to Next**

4:00 pm: **Group Reflection and Closing**

6:00 pm: **Dinner at Coltivare Restaurant and last stop at Revelry Yards**

Kessler Scholars Student Panel

Cornell University
Hannah Araujo '25
Paula Garcia '24
Daniela Caisaguano '25

Syracuse University
Sevara Abduvalieva '26
Danny Vu '25

Program Leadership:

Dannemart Pierre, Peggy J. Koenig '78 Associate Dean of Students for Student Empowerment, Director of First-Generation & Low-Income Student Support

Breanna Nieves Vergara, Coordinator of Mentoring Programs, Interim Lead, Kessler Scholars Program

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Kessler Scholars Collaborative Cornerstones

SUPPORT FIRST-GENERATION SUCCESS

Support students from matriculation through completion through a four-year comprehensive, cohort-based support program.

BUILD CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAM CAPACITY

Connect higher education leadership and staff across diverse institutions to strengthen individual and collective capacity to effectively support first-generation students.

SHARE BEST PRACTICES

Integrate scholarly research and evidence-informed practices to advance first-generation student success.

FACILITATE AUTHENTIC ENGAGEMENT

Foster meaningful connections among Kessler Scholars, alumni, and program staff across institutional boundaries.

Kessler Scholars Collaborative: Planning Year Aims

- To prepare ten new campus partners to **successfully launch Kessler Scholars Programs**

- To encourage **ongoing improvement** of Kessler Scholars Programs at inaugural campuses

- To support **hiring and onboarding** new Kessler Scholars Program staff

- To **share resources and best practices** for core programmatic elements, including peer mentoring, individualized student support, cohort-based programming, and Kessler Scholars Program traditions

- To **build connection and community** across Collaborative campus partners

- To facilitate **engagement opportunities** for Kessler Scholars and Alumni

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Kessler Scholars Program Evaluation

Collective Impact Framework: Setting and Working Towards Shared Goals

Individual Goal

Individual Goal

Individual Goal

Individual Goal

Our Shared Goals

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Kessler Scholars Shared Objectives

1

CLOSE EQUITY GAPS AND SUPPORT FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT SUCCESS.
- 94% average first-to-second year retention rate
- 70% average four-year graduation rate
- 85% average six-year graduation rate

2

ENSURE KESSLER SCHOLARS EXPERIENCE IS TRANSFORMATIVE AND MEANINGFUL.
- 94% overall program satisfaction rate
- 90% report strong sense of belonging to the Kessler Scholars community
- 92% report positive feelings of mattering
- 90% of scholars complete at least one high-impact practice

3

CREATE A VIBRANT AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY OF KESSLER SCHOLARS AND ALUMNI.
- Launch Collaborative student leadership board for Kessler Scholars across campus partners.
- At least one-third of Kessler Scholars assume a leadership role (e.g., student ambassador, peer mentor, advisory board member) within respective programs before graduation.
- Build opportunities for alumni engagement and mentoring opportunities.

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Ithaka S+R and the evaluation team

Ithaka S+R is a not-for-profit service that provides research and strategic guidance to help the academic and cultural communities serve the public good and navigate economic, technological, and demographic change. Ithaka S+R is part of ITHAKA. Our work aims to **broaden access to quality postsecondary education, improve student outcomes, and advance research and knowledge.**

The American Talent Initiative (ATI) is a Bloomberg Philanthropies-supported collaboration between the Aspen Institute's College Excellence Program, Ithaka S+R, and a growing alliance of colleges and universities dedicated to substantially expanding opportunity and access for low- and moderate-income students.

| Ify Oliobi	Caroline Doglio	James Ward	Emily Schwartz	Dillon Ruddell

KESSLER SCHOLARS

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Evaluation Overview

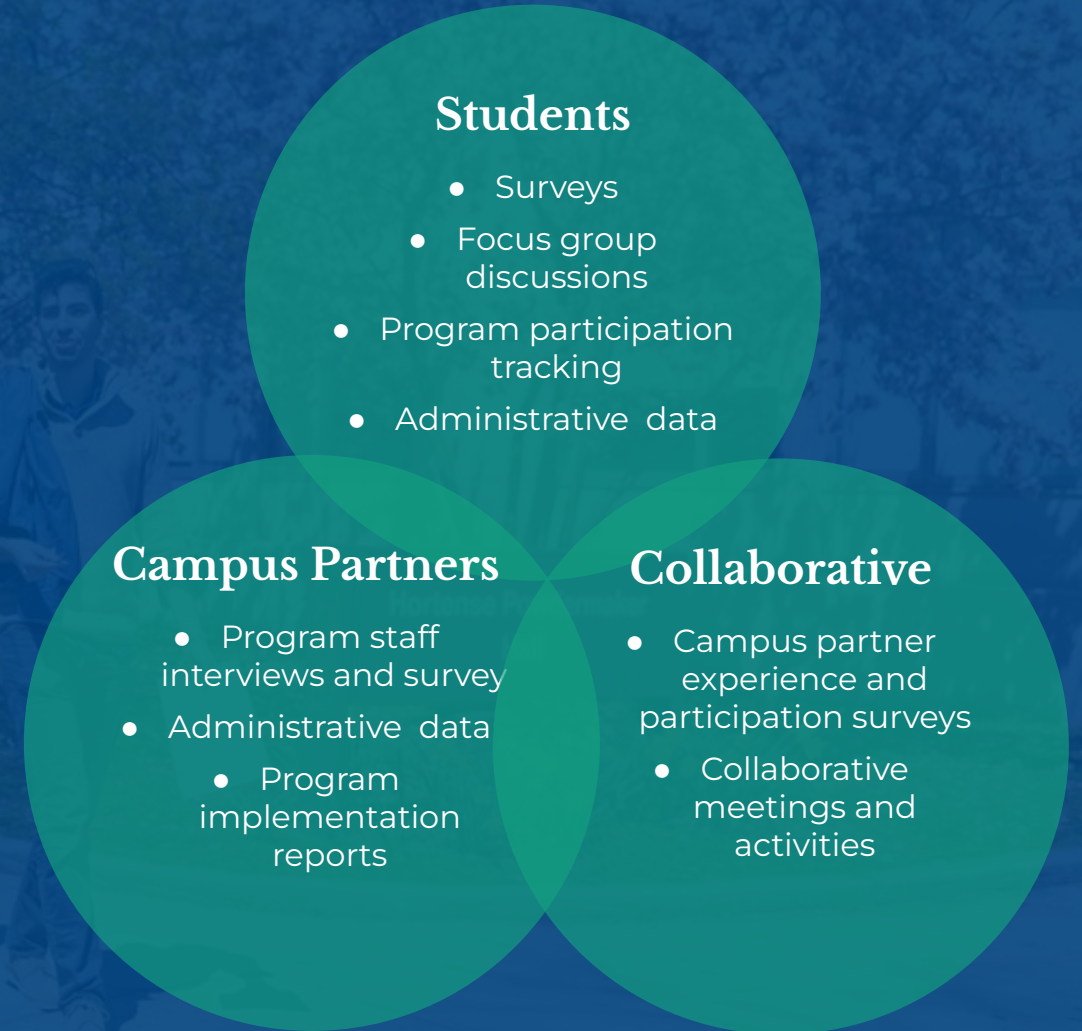| Reach | Implementation | Effectiveness | Impact | Improvement |

A **multi-site** and **multi-level evaluation and assessment** of the Kessler Scholars Program across the entire Collaborative network and at each of the 16 participating institutions.

- **Formative evaluation** designed to **support implementation and maximize impact**

  - Assess programmatic supports and measure implementation fidelity

  - Capture student experiences and assess short-term student progress

  - Produce internal and external reports to inform programmatic improvement and the broader field

KESSLER SCHOLARS COLLABORATIVE
KESSLER CAMPUS TEAM
COHORT
SCHOLAR
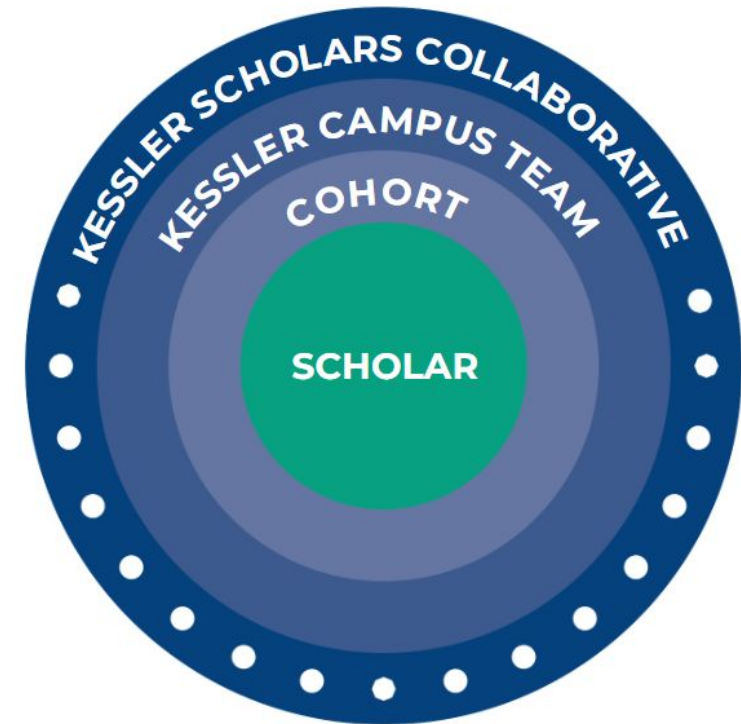
Our Approach

- **Ethical, culturally-responsive, and equitable data collection and analysis** using mixed-methods

  - Co-construction of evaluation aims and questions

  - Centering campus partner and student perspectives

  - Collaborating on reporting approach and mediums

- **Timely communication of actionable insights** to inform ongoing implementation and future planning at the institution and Collaborative levels

- **Dissemination of key findings and best practices** to relevant audiences, including program funders and the broader higher education community

Students

- Surveys
- Focus group discussions
- Program participation tracking
- Administrative data

Campus Partners

- Program staff interviews and survey
- Administrative data
- Program implementation reports

Collaborative

- Campus partner experience and participation surveys
- Collaborative meetings and activities

2022-23 Evaluation Questions

Collaborative Effectiveness

How effective is the Collaborative at supporting participants to implement the program?

Program Planning and Implementation

- [INAUGURAL] What programmatic elements did institutions provide to students, and how did students perceive this support?

- [NEW] What have institutions done to prepare for the launch of new Kessler Scholars Programs?

Student characteristics and progress

Who are Kessler Scholars, and how do they perform on core program outcomes?
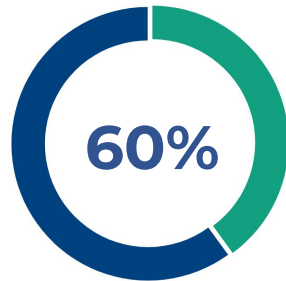
Program Staff

**45** Program staff across sixteen partner campuses

Program staff represent **diverse perspectives, identities and lived experiences,** and bring **significant expertise and knowledge of higher education** to their work with Kessler Scholars
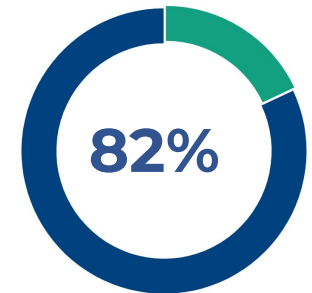
65%
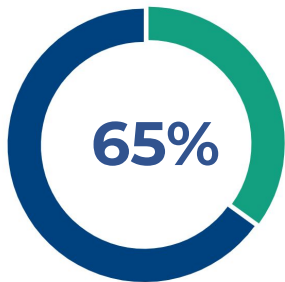
Program Staff identify as first-generation students

60%

Program Staff belong to historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups

40%
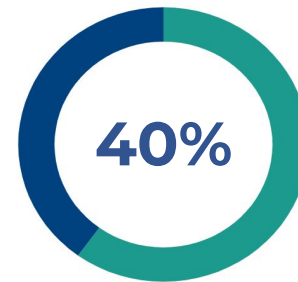
Program Staff have graduate degrees in higher education

*22% have masters degrees and 18% have doctoral degrees

82%

Program Staff have 6 or more years of experience working in higher education

Source: 2023 Staff Survey (34 of 43 respondents)

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Collaborative Effectiveness

What support does the Collaborative provide to program staff?

Facilitating regular connections to build connections, and share knowledge and best practices

- Monthly meetings for all campus partners
- Individualized support through quarterly 1-1 check-ins

Providing tools, resources and support for program development

- Guidance for program design, branding and onboarding of new staff
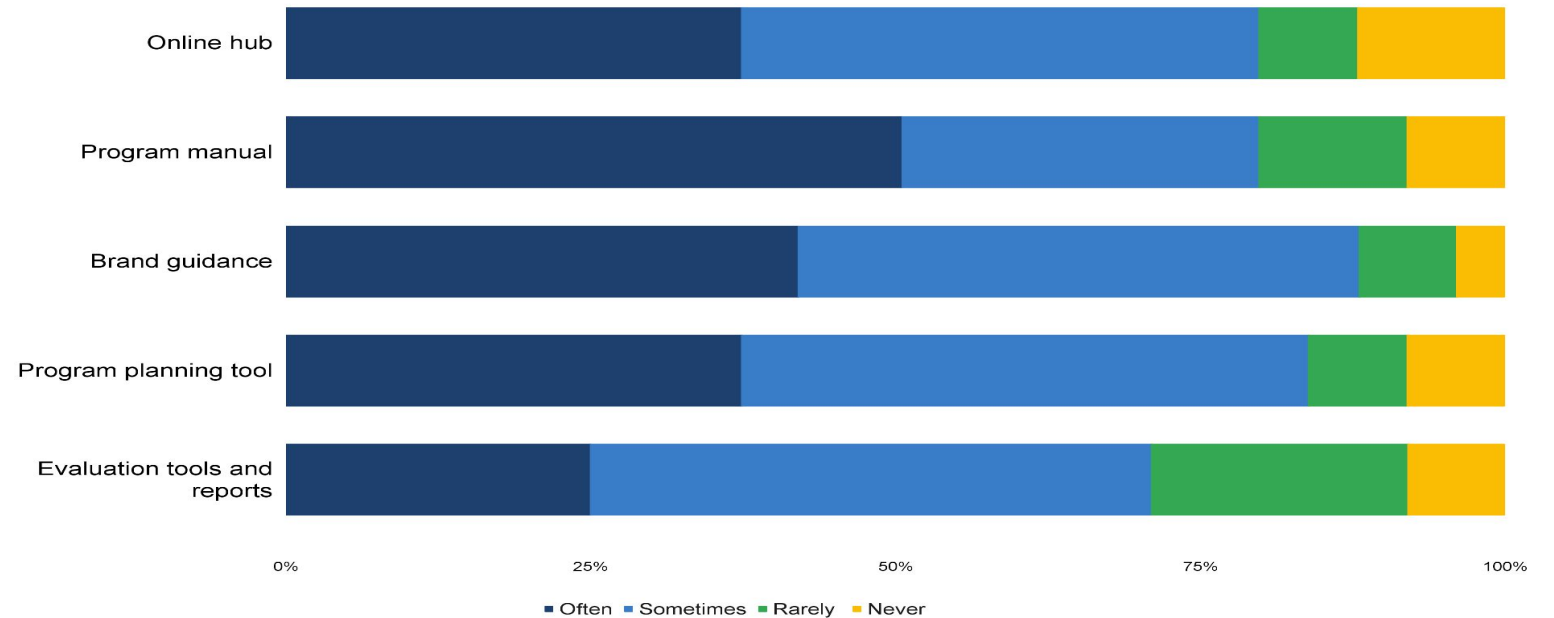- Tools for program planning, tracking and evaluation

Collaborative Effectiveness

92% of program leads and support staff have **used the resources** provided by the Collaborative

97% representation of **all 16 campuses** at monthly and quarterly meetings throughout the year

How frequently do campus staff engage with these meetings, resources and support?

Frequency of use

	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Online hub					
Program manual					
Brand guidance					
Program planning tool					
Evaluation tools and reports					

■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never

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Collaborative Effectiveness

How do program staff perceive the support from the Collaborative?

95% find the support to be **highly effective for developing and executing the program**

71% have made **meaningful connections with colleagues at other institutions** outside of Collaborative-led meetings.

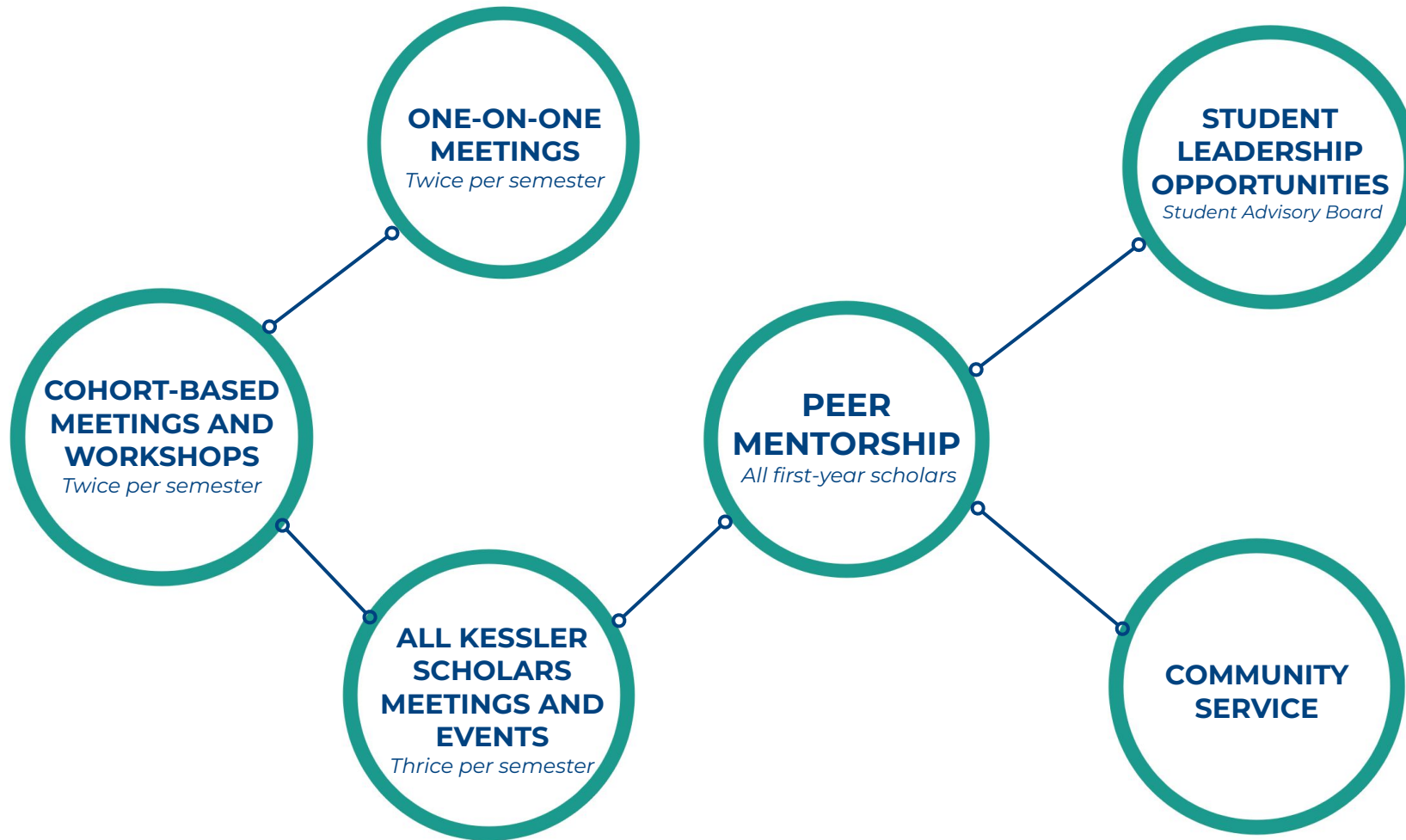**90%** say **attending meetings has assisted them with program execution** including goal setting, onboarding new staff, recruiting scholars, and designing program materials.

92% find the **resources provided to be useful and valuable**

> "Love the team at Collaborative--their encouragement and support makes me so much more confident in the work we're doing to build our program!"
>
> - Program Staff

Core Program Activities and Recommendations

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS
Twice per semester

COHORT-BASED MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS
Twice per semester

ALL KESSLER SCHOLARS MEETINGS AND EVENTS
Thrice per semester

PEER MENTORSHIP
All first-year scholars

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
Student Advisory Board

COMMUNITY SERVICE

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

- ◎ SUMMER TRANSITION SUPPORT
- ◎ FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS
- ◎ FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
- ◎ FACULTY OR ALUMNI MENTORSHIP

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Program Implementation

What programs and events did Kessler programs at inaugural campuses implement?

Institutions decide on the number of programs to offer
- 96+ events, 5 events per student, 16 events (8-27) per campus
- 86% of programs contribute to key program outcomes

Important to think carefully about engagement and impact
- Quantity versus Quality
- Engagement - 65% attendance rate
- Required versus optional - 92% of cohort meetings were required, versus 35% of all-Kessler meetings

Cohort-specific programming for first-year students has been highly beneficial

First-year scholars find summer transition support programs (46% took part) and first-year seminars (77% took part) to be useful and valuable experiences that eased their college transition process.

KESSLER SCHOLARS

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Kessler Scholars Program Highlights

Inaugural campuses executed a variety of unique, tailored programming for Kessler Scholars during the 2022-2023 academic year:

- Queens College: Alternative Spring Break trip to Stony Kill Farm to learn about agriculture and build sustainable environmental practices

- Cornell University: Kessler Scholars study abroad trip to Denmark

- Syracuse University: Pumpkin picking hosted by the Kessler Student Advisory Board

- St. Francis College: Community service fundraiser to support Breast Cancer Awareness month planned by the Student Advisory Board
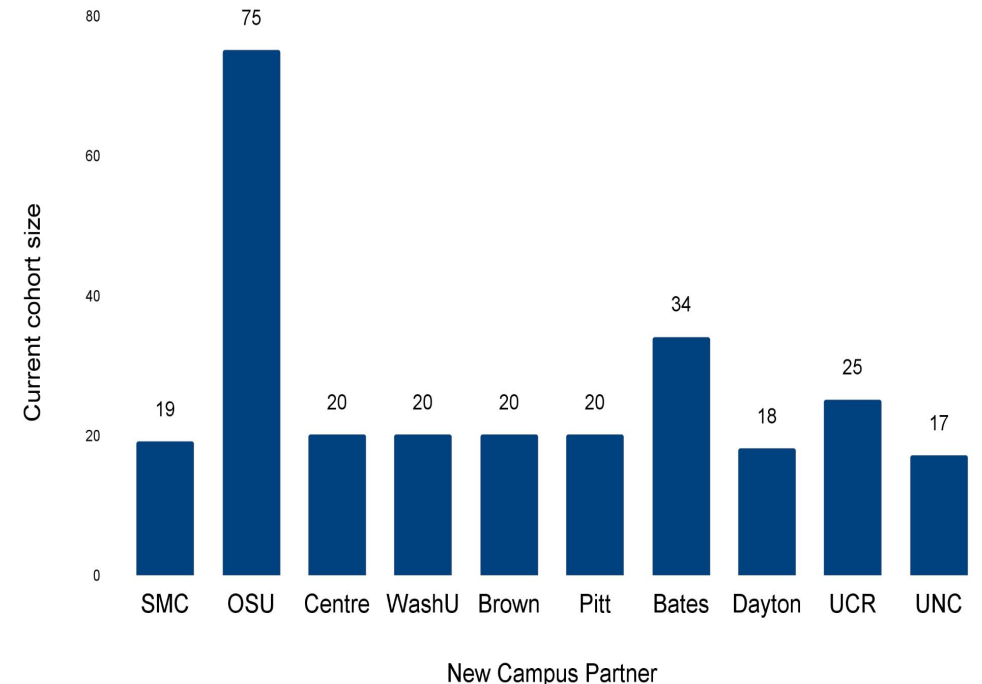

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Planning Year Milestones: New Campus Partners

What have new campuses done to prepare for the launch of Kessler Programs?

- Recruited and selected the first cohort of Kessler Scholars - **YAY!**

- Recruited and onboarded new program staff - **12 new hires!**

- Understanding the program model and connecting with the Collaborative

- Successful program planning and development for launch of new programs

268 Expected first-year cohort across new partner campuses

KESSLER SCHOLARS

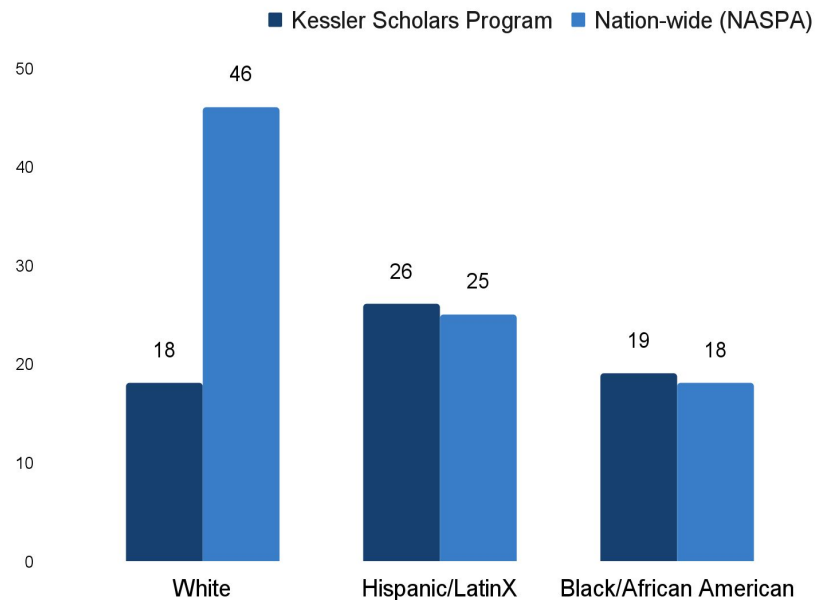SUMMER '23 CONVENING

Kessler Scholars - Inaugural Partners

454
Enrolled Kessler Scholars in 2022-23 across six inaugural partner campuses

*Spring Survey Estimates

The Kessler Scholars Program serves **a diverse population of first-generation students**

Kessler Scholars by Race

■ Kessler Scholars Program   ■ Nation-wide (NASPA)

	White	Hispanic/LatinX	Black/African American	Asian
Kessler Scholars Program	18	26	19	15
Nation-wide (NASPA)	46	25	18	6

Kessler Scholars by Gender

● Female   ● Male   ● Non-binary or gender queer*

Non-binary 6%
Male 31%

KESSLER SCHOLARS

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Program Experience
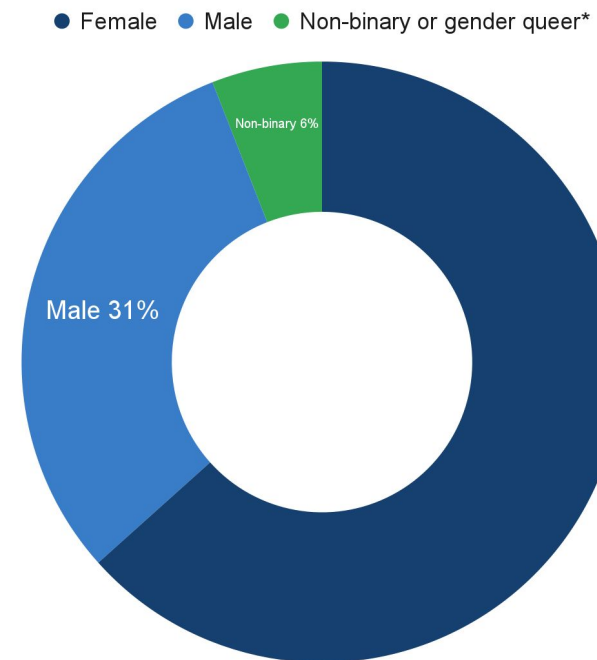
Benefits of Program Assistance
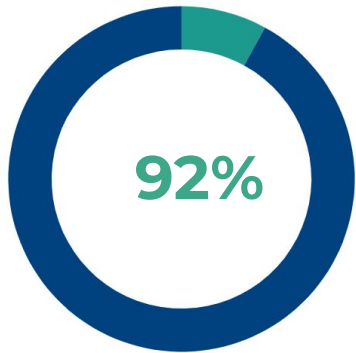
92% are **satisfied with their program experience**
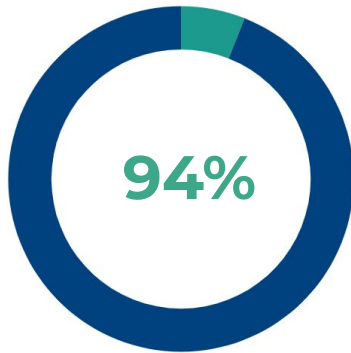
94% say that **program support has met or exceeded their expectations**

98% have **benefitted from program assistance**

Benefits of Program Assistance bar chart categories:
- Knowledge of campus resources
- Connection to campus
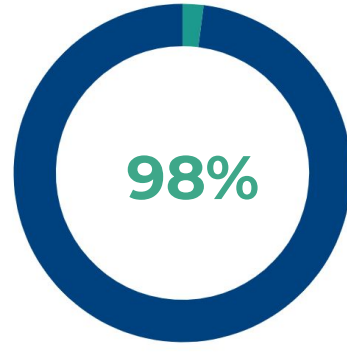- Self-exploration and personal development
- Academic exploration and planning
- Career exploration and planning
- Healthy lifestyle
- Understanding cultural or social diversity

Legend: ■ A great deal ■ A good amount ■ Somewhat ■ Not at all

Chart axis: 0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
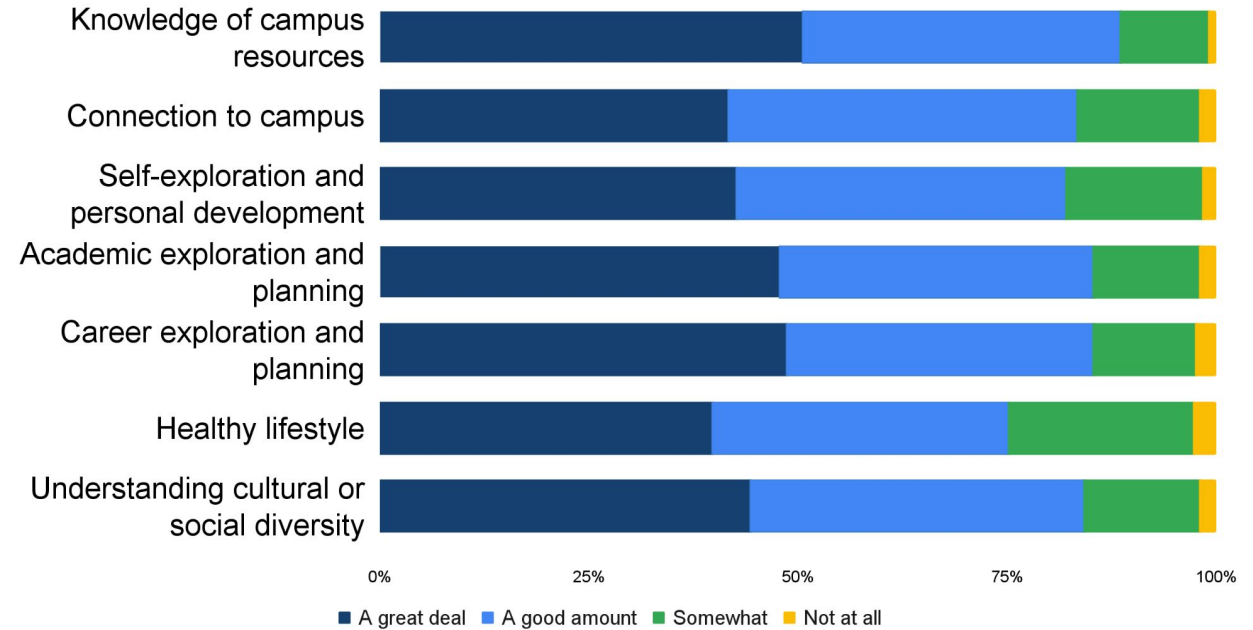
"The Kessler Scholars Program goes above and beyond any other scholarship program, I have encountered. They are there for their students physically, emotionally, and mentally along with substantial, financial support. They care about the student's health and well-being and their family members."

- Kessler Scholar

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Sense of Belonging

Most scholars feel cared for and supported by the program.
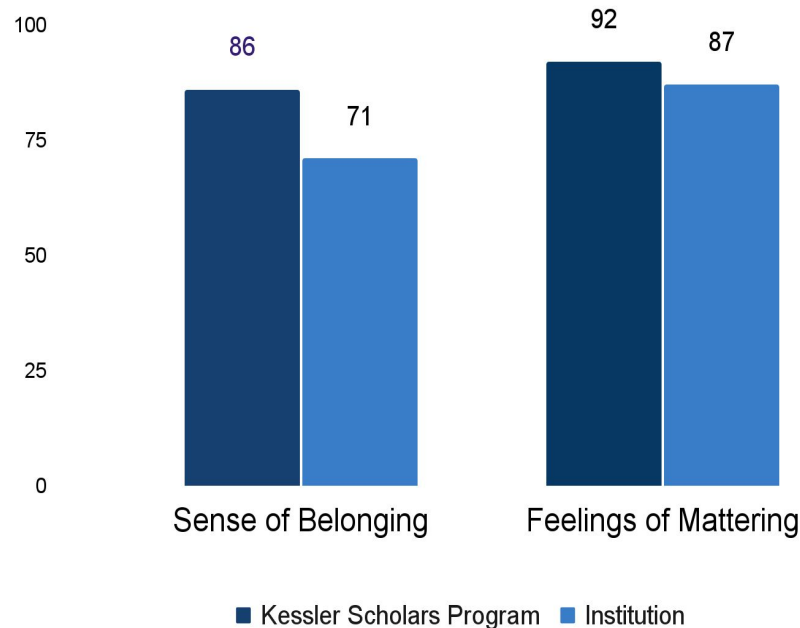
Students' sense of belonging and feelings of mattering are higher at the program-level.

70 percent of program staff say their institutions should be doing more to support first-generation students - **awareness and support is high for senior administrators and staff but relatively low for faculty.**

Reflection

How can we advocate for a more inclusive climate for first-generation, low-income students on our campuses?

Chart:

- Sense of Belonging: Kessler Scholars Program 86, Institution 71
- Feelings of Mattering: Kessler Scholars Program 92, Institution 87

Y-axis: 0, 25, 50, 75, 100

Legend: ■ Kessler Scholars Program ■ Institution

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College Navigation and Self-efficacy
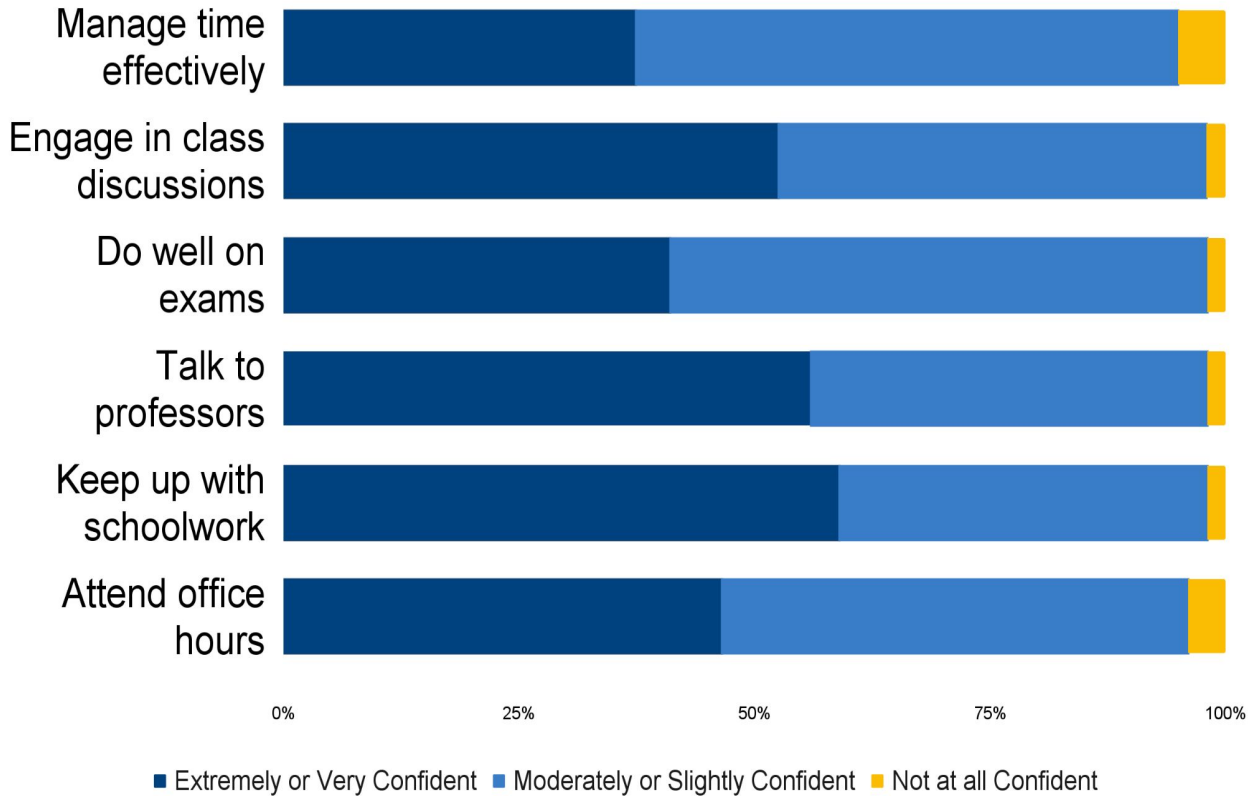
96% of scholars express confidence in their abilities to successfully complete academic and social tasks at college.

Most first-year scholars say that the academic guidance from the program helped them to navigate the campus resources and set them up for academic success.
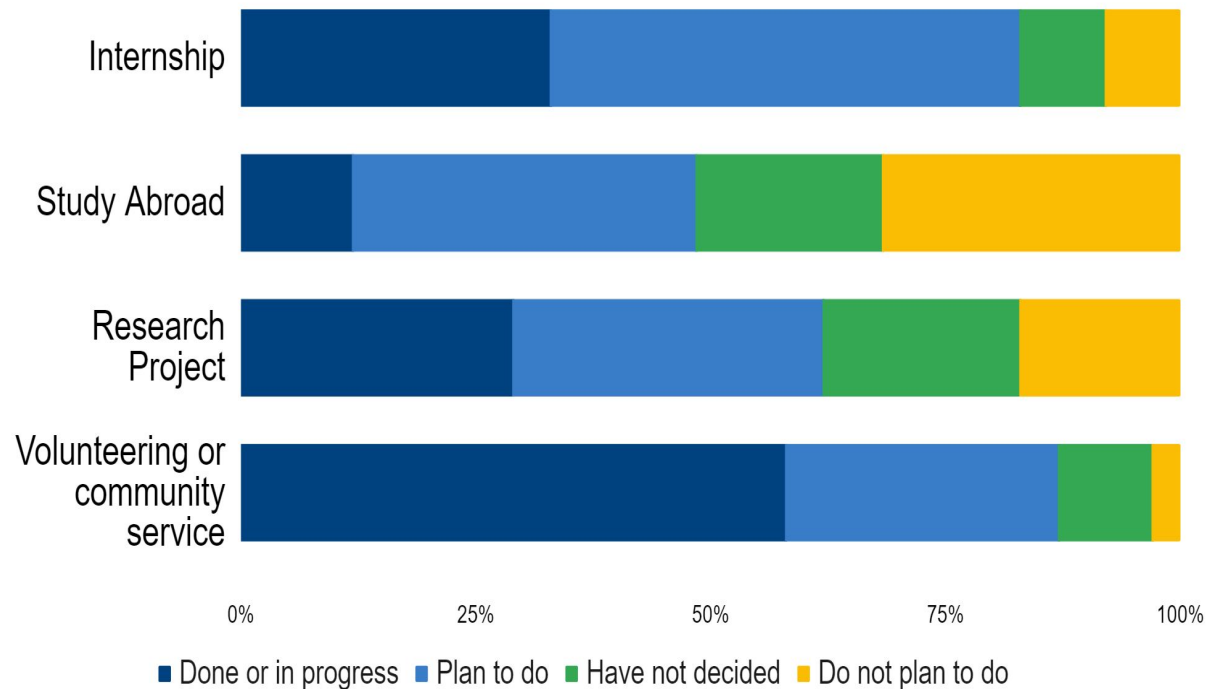
"[The Program] helped me navigate my way through college. It helped me build my schedule, find school resources, and also reminded me to take time for my mental health."

- Kessler Scholar

Leadership and High Impact Practices

High-Impact Practices

Internship

Study Abroad

Research Project

Volunteering or community service

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

■ Done or in progress   ■ Plan to do   ■ Have not decided   ■ Do not plan to do

70% of scholars of have engaged (33%) or plan to engage in high-impact practices.

*(54% of all first-gen students complete a HIP by graduation (NASPA, 2020))

Non-first-year scholars have served as **peer mentors (39%)** and **student advisory board members (19%)**

Reflection

How can we increase the number of students who take part in leadership and high impact practices? How can we support students to reflect on and articulate their lessons learned?

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Think - Pair - Share

- Reflecting on the spring survey data from Kessler Scholars:

  - **Sense of belonging:** How can we advocate for a more inclusive climate for first-generation, low-income students on our campuses?

  - **Leadership development and high-impact practices:**

    - How can we expand Kessler-related leadership opportunities and encourage scholars to pursue high-impact practices?

    - How can we support students to reflect on, document, and meaningfully share their experiences?

- What other data shared today can inform program development and refinement?

Evaluation Next Steps

Scaling up

We are excited to welcome the first cohort of scholars to the 10 new campuses and scale up the evaluation from 6 to 16 campuses!

Working with the Collaborative to support campus partners to **continuously link research to practice**
- Using evaluation insights to inform program planning and refinement.
- Producing campus-level reports to support learning and programmatic adjustments.
- Webinars to support data collection and interpretation of findings

Fall Data Collection Activities:
- September: First-year student survey
- October: Institutional data collection
- December: Program participation trackers

Where We've Been: Reflections on the Past Year

Collaborative Aims:

- To prepare 10 new partners to **successfully launch Kessler Scholars Programs**

- To encourage **ongoing improvement** at inaugural campuses

- To support **hiring and onboarding** new Kessler Scholars Program staff

- To **share resources and best practices** for core programmatic elements, including peer mentoring, individualized student support, cohort-based programming, and Kessler Scholars Program traditions

- To **build connection and community** across Collaborative campus partners

- To facilitate **engagement opportunities** for Kessler Scholars and Alumni

Reflection Questions:

- **What Collaborative supports and/or activities were most helpful?**
- **What worked well or was especially effective at the Collaborative-level?**

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Where We've Been: Reflections on the Past Year

Program-Level Aims:

- What did you set out to accomplish this year?
- What were your priorities and aims?

Reflection Questions:

- Did you meet your program goals?
- What work remains or needs further support?

Where We're Heading:
Cultivating a Community of Practice

Principles of Communities of Practice

Communities of practice are designed to be democratic and embrace the following equity-based principles:

- that everyone has knowledge to share,
- that everyone has learning to do,
- participants bring many identities and ways of knowing and that these diverse expressions should be encouraged and incorporated into CoP activities

Communities of practice work best when:

- there is a culture of trust and confidentiality,
- there is consistency and commitment from all members,
- meetings and activities are well planned and facilitated,
- relevant, timely, and interesting information is shared

Functions of Communities of Practice

Functions	Example
Convenes people	Brings together group of practitioners around a shared interest
Amplifies information	What new, little known or little understood information needs to be discussed?
Creates resources	What resources would be useful to develop?
Builds value	Promotes and sustains values of individuals and organizations
Problem solves	How can we...?
Requests for information	Where can I find an example of...?
Experience sharing	Has anyone had a similar experience?
Reusing assets and creating templates	I have materials from a similar session that can be used as a starting point
Enhances collaboration	Can we combine or work together?
Maps knowledge and identifies gaps	Who knows what and what are we missing?

Establishing Group Norms

A successful community of practice is dependent on an environment of mutual respect and trust, which encourages a willingness to:

- share ideas

- expose one's knowledge gaps

- ask difficult questions, and

- listen carefully.

What **group norms** are important to you when working as a team and/or attending professional meetings?
- **Decision-making, communication and tools, virtual meetings, values?**

How can we facilitate **mutual respect and trust** within our community of practice?

Developing a Learning Agenda

The goal of a learning agenda is to facilitate deep learning and improve practice.

A learning agenda is:

- A set of broad questions
- Directly related to the work
- When answered, enables the community to learn and grow together

Benefits of a learning agenda:

- Useful coordinating tool for identifying knowledge gaps
- Fosters a culture of learning and continuous improvement
- Engages stakeholders to achieve mission
- Informs evaluation

Source: Newcomer, K., Olejniczak, K., & Hart, N. (2022). Learning agendas: Motivation, engagement, and potential. New Directions for Evaluation, 2022(173), 63-83.

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Potential Topical Areas

What would you like to know more about the Kessler Scholars Program model?

Where are there gaps in your knowledge with respect to the Kessler Scholars Program?

Kessler Scholars Program Model: Topics for Further Exploration

- Alumni engagement
- Program evaluation and assessment activities
- Cohort-based workshops
- Career and professional development
- Community service opportunities for students
- Student advisory boards
- Peer mentoring
- Student leadership
- Summer engagement and transitions
- 1:1 professional staff support

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What areas of the work on the Kessler Scholars Program feel most challenging?

Topics related to first-gen student support you want to know more about

- Advising first-gen students throughout college

- Engagement and program planning

- Financial literacy workshops

- First-gen parent support

- Help-seeking mindsets and behaviors

- How the pandemic has impacted how first-gen students show up to college

- Imposter syndrome

- Intersecting identities of first-generation students

- Lack of self-esteem

- Mental health support for first-gen students

- Mentor training for first-gen students mentoring other first-gen students

- Promising practices to support student persistence and completion

- Strengths-based approaches

- Student leadership trainings

- Supporting disengaged students

- Supporting first-gen students' transition to graduate studies and/or workplace

Developing a Learning Agenda: Part 1

➢ **Individual Reflection:** Select the top 5 challenges and topics that resonate most with you.

- What is it about these challenges/topics you want to explore further?

- What topics do you plan to address or incorporate into Kessler Scholars programming, and in what ways?

- What ideas do you have for engaging with Kessler colleagues on these topics?

Developing a Learning Agenda: Part 2

➢ **Small Group Discussion:** Reflect on the topics and/or challenges you've been assigned and discuss the following questions with your table:

- What about this topic or challenge resonates with you?

    ○ What do you already know about this topic?

    ○ In what areas would you like to dig deeper?

- Where has this challenge shown up for you in your work?

    ○ What solutions have you explored?

    ○ What kinds of support might be helpful to address this challenge?

- How could this community of practice further engage with this topic?

    ○ Do you have any thoughts or ideas for meetings, resources, and/or speakers to support deeper learning about this topic?

Developing a Learning Agenda: Part 3

➢ **Large Group Share Out:**

- What are some specific activities or resources that would advance deeper learning about these topics as a community of practice? (e.g., ideas for speakers, books/readings, experts on your campus, peer-led discussions or Q&As)
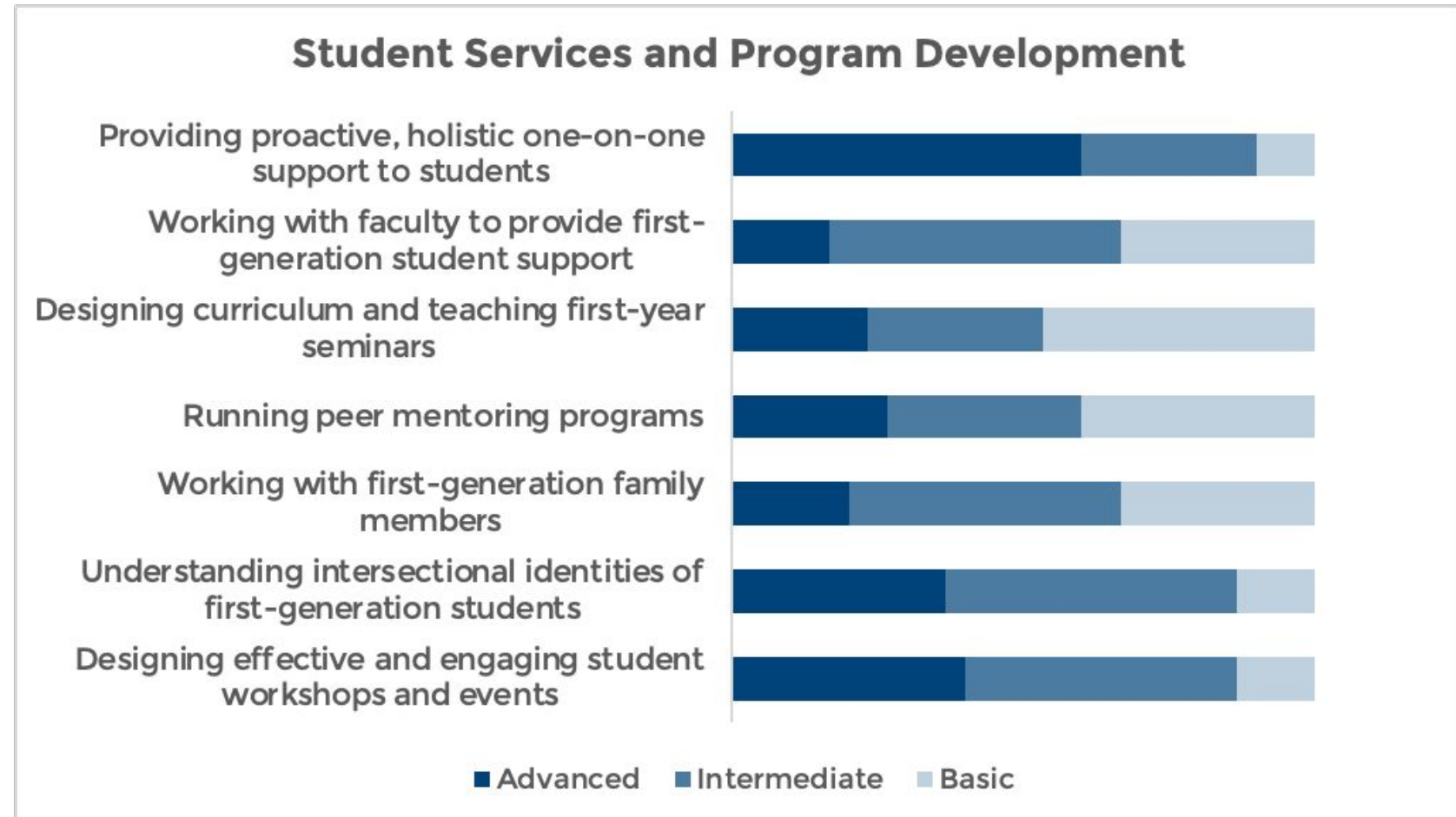
You are EXPERTS at supporting first-generation students. We want to learn from and with you!

- Campus partner staff bring **many years of experience** in the higher education field

- 40% of campus partner staff **hold advanced degrees** in fields related to higher education

- 65% of campus partner staff **identify as first-generation college graduates**

- Campus partner staff work with Kessler Scholars and first-gen students every day!

Elevating Expertise from within our community

KESSLER SCHOLARS

SUMMER '23 CONVENING

Student services and program development

Student Services and Program Development

- Providing proactive, holistic one-on-one support to students
- Working with faculty to provide first-generation student support
- Designing curriculum and teaching first-year seminars
- Running peer mentoring programs
- Working with first-generation family members
- Understanding intersectional identities of first-generation students
- Designing effective and engaging student workshops and events

■ Advanced   ■ Intermediate   ■ Basic

Higher education administration

Higher Education Administration

- Facilitating diversity, equity, and inclusion conversations and/or trainings
- Collaborating with campus departments to address student or program needs
- Working with advancement and/or donors
- Navigating bureaucratic processes

■ Advanced   ■ Intermediate   ■ Basic

Assessment and evaluation

Assessment and Evaluation

- Collecting and analyzing qualitative data
- Working with spreadsheets and numbers
- Tracking and monitoring student progress and activities
- Designing assessment tools (surveys, interview protocols, etc.)
- Analyzing and interpreting data to inform programming

■ Advanced ■ Intermediate ■ Basic

Marketing and communication

Marketing and Communication

Designing and writing newsletters, articles, or blogs

Leveraging social media platforms to build connections and community

■ Advanced　■ Intermediate　■ Basic

Community of Practice: Next Steps

1. Refine learning agenda for 2023-2024 academic year

2. Identify external speakers and internal facilitators for Collaborative meetings

3. Develop toolkits and resources to support Kessler Scholars Program implementation and continuous improvement

4. Continued connection with Collaborative buddy and other colleagues

5. Actively engage in Collaborative meetings and activities

Key aims for 2023-2024 Collaborative meetings

- To **elevate expertise** among campus partners and **amplify diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences** within the Collaborative community

- To facilitate opportunities for campus partners to **share what's working** with respect to the Kessler Scholars Program and first-gen student support

- To discuss **challenges** and develop **solutions** to improve the Kessler Scholars Program

- To encourage **peer-to-peer learning** and **collaboration** across campus partners

- To explore **hot topics** and **pressing issues** in higher education, especially related to first-gen student success

2023-2024 Meeting Structure

All-Campus Partner Meetings

Twice per semester, required for all

Collaborative Community Conversations

Required to attend two per semester

1:1 Collaborative meetings

Quarterly with Collaborative campus lead

Office Hours

Ongoing for individualized support

Project Working Team Meetings Join one! 4-6 meeting commitment

Project Working Teams

Community of Practice Working Team
- Goal: To generate knowledge and foster learning for Kessler Scholars Program staff, specifically to assist with planning and implementation of Kessler community conversations during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Summer Convening Planning Working Team
- Goal: To assist with content development and planning for 2024 summer convening.

Kessler Scholars Program Evaluation Working Team
- Goal: To inform evaluation and assessment activities across the Collaborative, working with Ithaka S+R and Collaborative staff to refine assessment tools and integrate culturally responsive evaluation practices into the evaluation.

First-Gen Celebration Week Planning Working Team
- Goal: To organize and celebrate Kessler Scholars across the Collaborative network and amplify Collaborative's work

Collaborative-Wide Student Engagement Initiatives

Fall:

- **First-Gen Celebration Week Activities**
  - 3 workshops offered between November 1 - 6th
  - Kessler Scholars required to attend one, may attend all
  - Dates, marketing, and registration materials to follow

- **Collaborative Student Leadership Board**
  - One student representative from each partner institution
  - Plan to meet virtually monthly starting in September
  - Inaugural partner representatives in fall, joined by student representatives from new campuses in winter

- **Transformative Experiences**
  - Professional and personal experience promoted via LinkedIn

Collaborative-Wide Student Engagement Initiatives

Winter:

- **Informational Interviews**
  - Opportunity to connect with Kessler Scholars alumni and industry leaders

- **Career Readiness Bootcamp**
  - Partnership with FutureMap to offer customized workshops focused on career readiness and preparing for life after college

Summer:

- **Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)**
  - Partnership with U-M Rackham Graduate School to support Kessler Scholars in transformative undergraduate research experience: 5 dedicated Kessler Scholars seats over next three years

KESSLER SCHOLARS

FIRST GEN FIRST

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