

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

Below is a summary of your responses

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The [Center for First-generation Student Success](#) is accepting applications for the **2020-21 First Forward cohort**. *First Forward is the nation's first recognition program, acknowledging institutions who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and improving the experiences and outcomes of first-generation college students.*

We encourage you to carefully read the [First Forward page](#) and review the **Eligibility Requirements, Benefits of Participation, Requirements of Participation, Application Overview, and Leadership Opportunities**.

Selected institutions, deemed a First Forward Institution, will be recognized and invited to join a community of peer institutions for professional development, goal setting, resource sharing, and knowledge creation. This community of thought leaders will grow annually and provide national support for the importance of recognizing and advancing the success of first-generation students.

Application Deadline: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 11:59 PM ET.

Application Process

This is an in-depth application process, asking you to share institutional data, detail campus-wide efforts to support first-generation students, as well as demonstrate institutional buy-in from leadership. The eligibility requirements state, **in order to be considered, institutions must be a [NASPA Institutional member](#) AND the primary contact must be a [professional member](#) as well as located within the United States**. In the next section, you will be provided with steps to determine eligibility.

Complete the following to the best of your ability but please understand that it is not a requirement for your institution to be actively pursuing each area to be considered for selection. We look forward to learning more about the great efforts you and your colleagues are leading!

IMPORTANT: The contents of your application will NOT save automatically unless you are prepared to fully submit your application. We encourage you to build your responses in a Word document, as to collaborate with your colleagues as well as save all of your responses. If you close the web browser after entering information, it will NOT save.

If you run into issues or have questions, please contact the Center at FirstForward@naspa.org. The First Forward application will close on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 11:59 PM ET**. Soon after the close of the application, the review committee will begin the selection process. Institutions will be notified by late-January, and notification will be sent via email, to the **primary contact** and **president or senior leader** included in the application.

Eligibility

In order to be considered, **institutions** must be a [NASPA institutional member](#) and the **primary contact** must be a [professional member](#) as well as located within the United States. The below information will help you complete the eligibility section.

- 1. Institutional Membership:** If you are unsure of your institution's membership status, you may consider asking your institution's Vice President for Student Affairs or another senior leader from your institution.
- 2. Professional/Affiliate Membership:** If you do not know your NASPA Professional/Affiliate Member ID follow these steps:
 - Visit naspa.org
 - Click "Login" found in the top menu bar
 - Use your NASPA profile login credentials
 - Click "My NASPA" found in the top menu bar
 - Select "Edit My Profile"
 - Select "Personal Snapshot" found in the menu on the left
 - There you will find your NASPA ID
 - By scrolling to the bottom, you will see your "Member Thru" date
- 3. Member Thru:** This can also be found in your "Personal Snapshot," scroll to the bottom and report when your membership is thru.

**Feel free to update any other information in your NASPA profile.*

Institution Name

Please list the **institution's official name** *(do not use short-hands or abbreviations)* :

Here are some examples:

- **Virginia Commonwealth University** not VCU
- **University of Tennessee, Knoxville** not UT Knoxville
- **University of California, San Diego** not UCSD
- **Texas Tech University** not Texas Tech

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Is your institution a **NASPA institutional member**?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Please complete the following for the Primary Contact. The Primary Contact from your institution must be a **NASPA Professional/Affiliate Member**.

Primary Contact Full Name

(as it appears on your Personal Snapshot in your member profile)

Ronnie Houchin

NASPA ID

2059682

Member Thru (dd/mm/year)

11/30/2020

First Forward Contacts

This application process requires you to identify a **primary contact**; the individual most closely connected to first-generation student initiatives at your institution and will serve as the primary contact for First Forward. To promote greater campus involvement, the application requires you to include a **secondary contact** from your institution, including an option to submit a third contact from your institution. Finally, applicants must secure the support of their **institution president or member of senior leadership** most closely aligned with first-generation services and support. **By including their information in this application, you are confirming the knowledge and support of leadership.**

For each contact, please briefly describe how your/their role at the institution supports first-generation student success.

Primary Institution Contact: *(this is the same person identified on the previous page)*

Full Name:	Ronnie Houchin
Email	rshouchin@alaska.edu
Suffix	
Position Title	Student Government Advisor
Role Description	First-gen professional and student advocate, advisor to UAF student government, supervises the Nanook Diversity and Action Center

Institution Contact #2:

Full Name	Victoria Smith
Email	vrsmith@alaska.edu
Suffix	
Position Title	Director, Student Support Services (TRIO)
Role Description	First-gen professional and advocate of First-Gen initiatives at UAF

Institution Contact #3:

Full Name	Jamie Clark
Email	jlcark7@alaska.edu
Suffix	PhD
Position Title	Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Role Description	A first generation graduate who has mentored multiple students in the fields of Anthropology and Archeology

Institution president or member of senior leadership:

Full Name	Keith Champagne
Email	kmchampagne2@alaska.edu
Suffix	
Position Title	Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Role Description	First-gen administrator, oversees student affairs

To begin, this section will collect general demographic and enrollment information about your institution.

What is your institution type?

- ☒ Public, 4-year
- ☐ Private not-for-profit, 4-year
- ☐ Private for-profit, 4-year
- ☐ Public, 2-year
- ☐ Private not-for-profit, 2-year
- ☐ Private for-profit, 2-year
- ☐ Other, please specify:

In what [NASPA Region](#) is your institution located?

(If you are unsure, please consult the map linked above.)

Region V

In what time zone is your institution located?

- ☐ Atlantic
- ☐ Eastern
- ☐ Central
- ☐ Mountain
- ☐ Pacific
- ☒ Other:

From the options below, which classification most closely describes your institution?

☐ Associate's Colleges



Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges: Mixed Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges (more than 10% of degrees conferred are at the baccalaureate level)



Baccalaureate/Associate's Colleges: Associate's Dominant (fewer than 10% of degrees conferred are at the baccalaureate level)

☐ Baccalaureate Colleges

☐ Master's Colleges and Universities

☒ Doctoral and Research Universities

☐ Tribal Colleges

☐ Other, please specify:

Please provide the number of currently enrolled undergraduate students at your institution:

3,500-4,999



What percentage of your total undergraduate enrollment is comprised of first-generation students?

☐ 1-10%

☐ 11-20%

☐ 21-30%

☐ 31-40%

☐ 41-50%

☒ 51-60%

☐ 61-70%

☐ Over 70%

☐ Other:

☐ We do not collect this information.

Please provide the number of currently enrolled graduate students at your institution:

Less than 3,500



What percentage of your total graduate enrollment is comprised of first-generation students?

- ☐ 1-10%
- ☒ 11-20%
- ☐ 21-30%
- ☐ 31-40%
- ☐ 41-50%
- ☐ 51-60%
- ☐ 61-70%
- ☐ Over 70%
- ☐ Other:

- ☐ We do not collect this information

Next, a few questions on how your institution is defining, identifying, and considering the success of first-generation students.

From the options below, which definition most closely aligns with your institutional definition of first-generation college students?

- ☐ Neither biological parent earned a four-year college degree
- ☐ Neither parent or guardian earned a four-year college degree
- ☒ Neither parent earned a four-year college degree from an institution in the U.S.
- ☐ Neither parent or guardian with primary influence on the student at age 16 earned a four-year college degree
- ☐ Neither parent completed education beyond the associate/two-year degree
- ☐ Neither parent entered any form of higher education
- ☐ Other:

- ☐ We do not have an institutional definition.

To your knowledge, does your institution use this definition consistently across all programs and services?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm uncertain.
- ☐ Other, please specify:

At what point(s) during the matriculation process does your institution ask students to self-identify as first-generation? *(select all that apply)*

☒ On the application for admission

☒ When completing the FAFSA

☐ On a student questionnaire during the enrollment process

☐ On a student questionnaire once a student has arrived on campus

☐ Other, please specify :

☐ We do not ask students to identify as first-generation.

In what ways does your institution assess the needs of first-generation students?
(select all that apply)

☐ First-generation-focused campus inventory or needs assessment

☐ Student focus groups

☒ Program evaluations or satisfaction surveys

☐ Feedback from faculty/staff

☐ Feedback from first-generation committee members

☐ Other, please specify:

Please indicate whether your institution participates in the following data collection activities:

	Yes	No	I Don't Know
Collecting data on first-generation students during the admissions process:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Collecting data on first-generation students across their academic career:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sharing first-generation data with faculty and academic advisors:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sharing first-generation data with student services providers:	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using first-generation data in institution-wide decision-making:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Using first-generation data in decision-making about programs and services:	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The following questions will explore the individuals leading first-generation efforts at your institution, creative collaborations, institutional buy-in, and general campus climate.

Has your institution appointed an individual or committee to lead first-generation student success?

- ☐ Yes, an individual has been appointed.
- ☒ Yes, a committee has been appointed.
- ☐ Yes, we have both an individual and a committee.
- ☐ No, we do not have an individual or committee formally appointed to lead first-generation efforts.

In the space below, please describe 1-2 examples of strategic or creative collaborations specifically developed to serve first-generation students at your institution:

Example #1

First Generation Graduation cord ceremony, which includes collaboration between the Nanook Diversity and Action Center, Student Support Services (TRIO), the Alumni Association, and the Office of the Vice Provost.

Example #2

First Gen AK Initiative, a campaign to raise awareness, create community and foster a sense of belonging among students, staff, and faculty at UAF who identity as first-generation.

Using the spaces below, please provide URLs to institutional websites devoted specifically to providing information to first-generation students and families:

(Consider including social media pages, handles, and any relevant hashtags.)

Example #1

<https://uaf.edu/sss>

Example #2

<https://uaf.edu/ndac/events-programs/1st-genak.php>

Example #3

<https://uaf.edu/ruralss/>

Please provide any examples of how your college or university president, senior leadership or governing board has *publicly* demonstrated an institutional commitment to first-generation student success?

Please include links or URLs to relevant documents as available.

This is an area where we could certainly grow. Currently, our only public proclomation of administrative support (Provost, Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs) at UAF has come from our First-Gen Cord Ceremony. First-Gen students were included in the list of approved cords for the 2019 Commencement booklet. See page 6 of the Commencement booklet below: https://www.uaf.edu/commence/files/2019/degrees/cmcmnt_program_book_2019.pdf and <https://news.uaf.edu/first-generation-student-cord-ceremony/>

In what ways, if any, does your institution provide dedicated space for first-generation students to gather, study, and/or socialize?

Currently, there is not dedicated space for first-generation students to gather, study, and/or socialize.

Please identify the ways your institution engages current first-generation students, first-generation alumni, faculty, and campus partners in serving first-generation students.				
	Current First-generation Students	First-generation Alumni	Faculty	Campus Partners
Marketing programs/services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Offering input into program/service development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conducting research on first-generation student experiences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Speaking/attending workshops and events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Serving on a first-generation committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Recruiting new first-generation students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mentoring first-generation students	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Identifying internships or job opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Philanthropic giving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does your institution have a first-generation student organization?

☐ Yes. Please provide the name:

☒ No

☐ I’m uncertain.

What steps has your institution taken to improve campus climate and celebrate the first-generation student identity and contributions? *(i.e. awareness campaigns, First-Generation College Celebration events, etc.)*

First Gen AK: In order to raise awareness, create community and foster a sense of belonging, staff and faculty at UAF who identify as first-generation are given buttons and asked to wear them during high visibility events on campus. The First Gen AK initiative kicks off every year during the First-Generation Breakfast during UAF’s New Student Orientation. First-generation students and their parents and family members are invited to this breakfast to meet first-gen faculty and staff and begin creating community around being first gen. The First Gen AK buttons are first made available at this event. This initiative is cosponsored by the Nanook Diversity and Action Center and Student Support Services (TRIO). Celebration of National First-Generation College Student Day (November 8th): Each year Student Support Services (TRIO) partners with a university department to celebrate this important date. In the fall of 2019 SSS worked closely with Alaska EPSCoR to put on a First-Gen STEM panel of staff, faculty and community members who currently work in STEM-related fields and could speak to their experiences as first-gen college students at their respective institutions. While this was only our second attempt at creating an event for National First Generation College Student Day, we had 30+ students in attendance--as well as many staff and faculty supporters. First Generation Graduation cord ceremony: This event, held the Saturday before graduation, is a celebration of UAF students who are the first in their family to graduate with a bachelor's degree. The event is put on in collaboration between the Nanook Diversity and Action Center, Student Support Services, the Alumni Association, and the Office of the Vice Provost. Modeled after Boise State's first gen cording ceremony, each student receiving a cord is recognized in the ceremony and is presented a teal cord by an individual of their choosing. These individuals may include staff or faculty mentors, family members, community members, as well as the UAF Vice Provost. During the event a keynote speaker and first gen alumni speaker provide inspirational messages for the new graduates.

The next section will collect information about the programs, services, and supports being offered to first-generation students at your institution.

What are the THREE (3) most important student success factors driving institutional decisions on offerings for first-generation students?

- ☐ Academic performance
- ☐ Career outcomes
- ☒ Completion/degree attainment
- ☐ Extracurricular engagement
- ☐ Fundraising/scholarship development/aid
- ☒ Retention
- ☒ Sense of belonging
- ☐ Student satisfaction
- Other, please specify:

Please provide no more than five brief examples of how your institution is directly serving first-generation students through programs and services specific to this population.

Example #1

Student Support Services: Student Support Services is a federally funded TRIO program through the Department of Education, designed to help first-generation college students (as well as those with limited income and students with disabilities) to attain a baccalaureate degree. The institution has invested funding to help an additional 120 students who fit the SSS-eligible criteria; the program as a whole serves 280 students an academic year.

Example #2

Rural Student Services: Rural Student Services provides comprehensive advising and support to Alaska Native students and students from rural Alaska. This program serves a high proportion of first-generation students. Rural Alaskan communities struggle to retain individuals with college degrees, leaving a high proportion of community members who would qualify as first-gen.

Example #3

Nanook Diversity and Action Center: The Nanook Diversity and Action Center serves students from underrepresented and minoritized backgrounds -- including first-generation college students -- through a wide array of programming and awareness initiatives.

Example #4

Residence Life: RAs and RDs provide personal support to students, live-in peer mentors provide tutoring and academic support to students and receive specialized training from Student Support Services. Many Res. Life staff are first-gen.

Example #5

Student Support Fund: The Alumni Association established this endowment to provide emergency financial support primarily to students with limited income--many of whom are first-gen. The Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities coordinates and administers this fund, and provides holistic support to meet the greater needs of the student.

Using the text box below, please describe how your institution will scale and sustain support for first-generation student success in the next five years? What commitments are in place to guarantee success?

FY20: Write a STEM SSS grant to serve an additional 140 SSS-eligible students; reapply for SSS classic grant to continue to serve 160 SSS-eligible students; establish and set mission and goals for the First Generation Committee; initiate a First-Gen Mentorship program, soliciting and training first-gen staff/faculty/grad students; research First-Generation Living-Learning Communities (LLC)--identify best practices, study other universities' models, learning outcomes and goals; continue First-Gen Cord Ceremony; develop first-gen climate survey to assess student needs and experiences, use in future programing and advocacy efforts. FY21: Identify (at least 3) key first-gen student representatives to establish and sustain First-Gen Student Club; review mission and goals for First-Gen Committee, adjust to fit student needs; initiate awareness campaign, utilizing campus photographer to highlight the achievements of key first-gen students, staff and faculty; launch mentorship program, assess program outcomes at end of FY21; launch first-gen climate survey; SSS STEM program (if funded) would begin; identify First-Gen LLC faculty and staff partners, propose mission, learning outcomes and goals to Residence Life fall 2020, LLC available during housing selection spring 2021; continue First-Gen Cord Ceremony. FY22: 50 students (one floor in Moore Hall) will move into the First-Gen LLC, provide pre/post evaluations to gauge change in sense of belonging over time; Chancellor to make public announcement supporting National First Generation College Student Day; partner with Alumni Association reach out to first-gen alumni to establish internships and scholarships for current first-gen students; review mission and goals for First-Gen Committee, adjust to fit student needs; continue efforts from previous years using assessment to improve programming; use data from FY20/FY21 to inform and influence institutional decisions and priorities; continue First-Gen Cord Ceremony. FY23: Establish Upper-Class First-Gen LLC (one section of Cutler Apartment Complex), build in mentorship of first-year LLC residents; use funds from Alumni Association partnership to create endowment (\$25,000) for first-gen college students; continue efforts from previous years using assessment to improve programming; continue First-Gen Cord Ceremony. FY24: Utilize the qualitative and quantitative data gathered in previous 5 years to create and implement new 5 year plan. Ongoing: Continue First Gen AK initiative, expand to provide t-shirts/stickers, integrate with LLC and First-Gen Mentorship program; Comprehensive Advising funding to match the SSS classic grant -- increase SSS ability to serve an additional 120 students.

Characters remaining: 275

What challenges or barriers may thwart this success?

(Please know that sharing the challenges or barriers will have no influence on the selection process.)

State budget cuts of up to \$170 million, declining public support of higher education in Alaska, declining enrollment, planned tuition increases, removal of academic programs, potential cuts to student services.

Finally, please provide any additional information you'd like to share with us here:

We have a small but mighty group of first-gen professionals (both staff and faculty) who are willing and ready to make this 5-year plan happen. As UAF enters into a new strategic plan and accreditation cycle with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) this core group plans to make first-gen student needs a top priority at all levels.

First Forward Participation Agreement

If selected as a First Forward Institution, your institution **must** agree to fulfill the following requirements. Please check each box to **acknowledge** you have read these requirements and accept this commitment.



Attend a minimum of **THREE virtual events** (Center Live Briefing or On Demand) between June 2020 and May 2021 (*Discounted rate will apply for First Forward institutions.*)



Send at least **TWO** individuals to the **First Forward Workshop** (Full-day; Sunday, June 28, 2020) at the 2020 NASPA First-generation Student Success Conference (June 28 - July 1, 2020) in Baltimore, MD. (*This workshop has no registration fee; First Forward institutions will receive a small travel stipend to offset costs.*)



Participate in **ONE** cohort conference call each month (6-8 calls between June 2020 and May 2021.)



Complete **ONE blog** about your institution's first-generation initiatives or relevant first-generation topic between June 2020 and May 2021 (*template provided*).



Complete a **brief annual report** based upon goals established during the June 2020 First Forward Workshop (*template provided*).



Optional: Attend the 2021 NASPA Annual Conference (March 20 - March 24 in Kansas City, MO) for First Forward cohort meetings and professional development.

Downloading the 2020-21 First Forward Application

Once you have completed the **2020-21 First Forward Application**, you will be able to download the summary of your responses for your records or share it with your colleagues. Simply advance to the next page, "Submit" your application and on the following page you will see "**Download PDF**" in the upper right-hand corner; click "**Download PDF**" and you can download a copy or simply close the web browser.

Submitting your Application

If you ready to submit your 2020-21 First Forward Application, please select "**Submit**" below.

If you run into issues or have questions, please contact the Center at FirstForward@naspa.org. The First Forward application will close on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at 11:59 PM ET**. Soon after the close of the application, the review committee will begin the selection process. Institutions will be notified by **late-January**, and notification will be sent via email, to the **primary contact** and **president or senior leader** included in the application.