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The deadline for feedback is the end of day on March 15, 2021.

FIRST GENERATION PARENTS GROUP

Concept Proposal

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CONCEPT: Create a cohort of 20-25 parents who did not graduate with a four year degree and assist them with information and tools to help their students in the transitions from middle school to high school and high school to college.

AUDIENCE: Parents of eighth grade students that would move as a cohort to assist their students through their enrollment in college.

PURPOSE

We will continue to fulfill UNO's mission as a metropolitan-urban institution, and the most diverse campus in Nebraska. We currently serve an important proportion of first-generation students (1,637 new undergraduate students and 41% of the total undergraduate population identify as first-generation) and minority populations (1,311 new undergraduate students and 24% of the total population). These populations also suffer the highest impact from attrition, as many do not return from one fall to the next. In many cases, families are supportive of their education, but lack the tools to assist students to remain engaged in their educational path. According to the National Center for Education Statistics (2018) 30% of students whose parents didn't attend college dropout, compared to 26% of students whose parents attended some college and 14% of those whose parents hold bachelor's degrees.

This program aims to provide parents of eighth grade students with the tools to help their students in the transitions from middle school to high school and high school to college. Some of the tools address the families existing social, cultural and navigational capital for the transition into high school, and eventually into higher education. These forms of capital are accumulated over time and with practice, during this program, families will learn and practice to recognize and use these tools in their favor. Thus the principal goal is to provide families the timely and appropriate tools so they can be successfully deployed throughout their student's educational career from eighth grade to post-secondary education, while creating trust with UNO as a preferred institution for post-secondary education

The educational outcomes of this program include, but are not limited to:

- The knowledge and the ability to assist their student in selecting college prep courses.
- The ability to assist their student with supplemental instruction when needed by identifying and utilizing appropriate resources.
- Improved knowledge and understanding of "What to expect? And How to assist?" during each transition period.
- Improved knowledge of the admission process, do's and don'ts, paying special attention to timeline and requirements.
- Improved knowledge of the financial aid process, paying special attention to required documents and deadlines.
- Improved knowledge on how to empower their student to self-advocate during these processes

Other features and benefits of this program:

- This group will meet at 75 North facility, once a month during the months of January, March and May, then return for phase 2 during the months of August, October and December.
- Meetings will be held on Saturdays between 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM.
 - First cycle 2 rooms will be needed at the facility
- While the parents meet for the program, there will be UNO faculty and/or students to tutor in writing, reading and math.
- The parents group will advance as a cohort between eighth grade and first year of college.
- There will be a core group of facilitators. These facilitators will be available for parents beyond the Saturday meetings to answer questions, concerns and connect parents to other community resources.
- First generation parents with college graduates will be invited to share their experiences and assist with the group.
- Books, articles and resources will be made available for all participants.
- This program will collaborate with other community groups, such as OPS, 100 Black Men of Omaha, The Urban League and Boys and Girls. These partnerships will allow us to leverage time and resources in programs such as Back to School, mentorship and others.
- The group will participate in several outings throughout the year, including:
 - Tours of UNO and UNMC
 - Program's end celebration
 - Athletics events at UNO
- Participants that complete at least 80% of the program every cycle will receive a \$4,000 scholarship (total value) over four years. Both the student and one parents will receive this scholarship if they chose to attend UNO.

STAFFING NEEDS

In order to create a sustainable program a team will be developed to provide the best experience to those parents and their students. The team will grow as needed with additional cohorts, but for the first cycle, these individuals will be part of the team:

- Group leader- two instructors per group
- Tutors- three tutors during each session (writing, reading and math)
- Support- one person to work on emails, text, communication and logistics for the group(s)

POTENTIAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- UNMC
- Omaha Public Schools
- Metro Community College
- 100 Black Men of Omaha
- Urban League
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.