First-Gen Zone
Call for Proposals

About First-Gen Zone
We invite ASU faculty, staff, graduate students, and community partners to join us for the third annual First-Gen Zone conference. First-Gen Zone is aimed at informing, empowering and mobilizing ASU faculty and staff regarding the unique experiences of first-generation college students. First-generation students comprise over 35% of the ASU undergraduate and graduate student body. The conference will offer research-based information, tangible tips and actionable steps to faculty, staff, and community members who want to enhance their skill set in support of the success of first-generation students. First-Gen Zone will include two outstanding keynote speakers, concurrent sessions addressing a wide array of issues and opportunities, and highlights of existing university programs and initiatives. First-Gen Zone will create an intentional opportunity for ASU and community partners to exchange ideas and collaborate. It is envisioned that this conference will spark additional dialogue and support for first-generation students at ASU.

Who Should Submit a Proposal
We are seeking proposals from both faculty, staff, and community partners who have experience working with and supporting first-generation college students. We encourage proposals from diverse groups of professionals, including but not limited to those working in the following areas: student recruitment, K-12 postsecondary preparation, new student and family programs, student retention, student engagement, academic advising, residence life, academic support, financial aid and scholarship services, career and professional development services, TRIO and GEAR UP programs, and wellness. We also welcome proposals from administrators, faculty, researchers, graduate students, and others connected to helping first-generation students be successful at ASU. Our hope is to receive proposals from newer and seasoned professionals alike, and we welcome proposals from individuals at all campuses and from ASU community partners. For those submitting a proposal from outside of ASU, the workshop must feature at least one university collaborator.

Why Submit a Proposal
• Contribute to the body of knowledge at the university for serving first-generation college students
• Help ASU fulfill its university charter of being “measured not by whom it excludes, but rather by whom it includes and how they succeed”
• Broad exposure for your ideas and for your college, unit or department
• Professional development

Potential Topics (offered merely as examples; proposals are not limited to these topics)
• Classroom Success
• Communications
• Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
• Engagement
• Finding Community
• First-Gen Families
• First-Gen Plus (Intersectionality)
• First-Gen Strengths
• Graduate Student Support
• Mentorship from Staff or Faculty
• Navigating ASU
• Peer Support
• Postsecondary Preparation
• Program Assessment
• Resilience
• Retention and Graduation
• Sense of Belonging
• Student Data Tracking
• Understanding Institutional Jargon and Systems

Conference Format
First-Gen Zone 2022 will be offered in a hybrid format. We anticipate the opening and closing sessions, including the keynotes, to be offered in-person at the ASU Tempe campus and on Zoom. Concurrent sessions will be offered in-person at the Tempe campus only. Lightning talks will be offered in a hybrid format. Note: Format is subject to change, pending university guidelines on gathering related to COVID-19.
**Types of Sessions**  
We are seeking proposals for the following two types of sessions:  
• Concurrent Workshops: 45-minute session offering a presentation and/or training on serving first generation students  
• Lightning Talks: 5-to-7-minute overview of your program or service for first-generation students

**Selection Criteria**  
• Thought Provoking - The presentation will stimulate new ideas and/or ways of thinking among audience members. It may even challenge attendees’ preconceived notions in some way.  
• Interactivity - Attendees will be engaged by the presenter(s), have the opportunity to contribute ideas and/or critique, and won’t simply be “talked at.”  
• Advances the Field - The presentation is timely, and it makes a novel contribution which pushes the boundaries of the field and challenges attendees to reexamine what is possible.  
• Action Oriented - This presentation will result in producing deliverables and/or tangible strategies that attendees can implement to support first-generation students.

**Proposal Components**  
• Concurrent Workshops:  
  o Session title (15 words max)  
  o Presenter name(s) and title(s) (recommend no more than 3 presenters)  
  o ASU Collaborator name(s) and title(s)  
  o Session abstract - for use in the conference program (150-200 words)  
  o Session outline – for use of committee review; please include timeframes for each portion of your session (150-200 words)  
  o Intended audience level  
  o Interactivity - how will you engage the audience? (1 or 2 sentences)  
  o List of key actionable takeaways/learning objectives (beyond awareness) (max 3 takeaways/objectives)  

• Lightning Talks:  
  o Session title (15 words max)  
  o Presenter name(s) and ASU title(s) (recommend 1 presenter)  
  o ASU Collaborator name(s) and title(s)  
  o Session abstract - for use in the conference program (150-200 words)  
  o Session outline – for use of committee review (150-200 words)  

**Key Dates**  
• Proposals due: Wednesday, November 22, 2021 by noon  
• Proposal notices sent: Monday, December 13, 2021  
• First-Gen Zone registration opens: Monday, January 10, 2022  
• First-Gen Zone conference: Thursday, February 24, 2022  

**Proposal Submission Link:** [https://forms.gle/xmg5zLw2P8cQ2ZxU8](https://forms.gle/xmg5zLw2P8cQ2ZxU8)  

**Questions:** Contact First-Gen Zone at FirstGenZone@asu.edu