



# FORWARD TOGETHER

FirstGen Texas



June 11, 2026  
Austin, Texas

 **FirstGen  
FORWARD**  
The future is FirstGen



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**FORWARD  
TOGETHER**



# FirstGen FORWARD

The future is FirstGen

## About FirstGen Forward

**FirstGen Forward (FGF)** is the center for first-generation student success— your premier source for evidence-based approaches, data-informed strategies, professional development, and research. Together, we are building community and belonging through the FirstGen Forward Network, knowledge creation and evidence-based practices, and thought leadership and advocacy, transforming higher education and the student success landscape guided by a first-gen lens.

## Acknowledgement

**Forward Together: FirstGen Texas Convening** brings together presidents, senior leaders, and institutional teams from Texas higher education institutions for a focused, leadership-centered conversation on advancing first-generation student success. Grounded in the Texas higher education context, this convening positions first-generation student success as a strategic institutional priority—one that requires intentional leadership, coordinated effort, and sustained commitment. Participants will be introduced to **FirstGen Forward** and explore how a structured, data-informed, and equity-centered approach can strengthen institutional capacity and deepen impact for first-generation students.

Designed as both an informative and reflective experience, the convening creates space for institutional self-assessment, peer dialogue, and leadership-informed decision-making. Senior leaders will hear directly from peers, examine institutional readiness and alignment, and gain clarity on the benefits and expectations of engaging with FirstGen Forward—including coaching, tools, and access to a national peer network. By the conclusion of the convening, participants will be

equipped to identify priority opportunities for improving first-generation student success and determine clear next steps, whether that includes applying to FirstGen Forward, scheduling a follow-up consultation, or continuing internal conversations to advance this work on their campus.

[firstgenforward.org](http://firstgenforward.org)

This tailored experience was made possible by the following funders:



T.L.L. TEMPLE FOUNDATION  
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# Forward Together Purpose

**Establish Strategic Relevance** - Position first-generation student success as a critical institutional priority for Texas institutions, grounded in statewide context and institutional realities.

**Communicate the Value of Engagement** - Clearly articulate the benefits, expectations, and supports associated with participating in FirstGen Forward, enabling institutions to make informed decisions about engagement.

**Support Institutional Self-Assessment** - Provide structured opportunities for institutions to assess fit, readiness, and capacity for engaging in coordinated first-generation student success work.

**Facilitate Leadership-Informed Decision-Making** - Create space for senior leaders to hear directly from peers, ask critical questions, and consider the leadership commitments required for sustained impact.

**Move Institutions Toward Action** - Guide institutions toward clear next steps, whether that includes applying, scheduling follow-up conversations, or engaging in further internal exploration.

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# Convening Learning Outcomes

## Participants will be able to:

1. Explain why first-generation student success is a strategic priority within the Texas higher education landscape.
2. Describe what institutions gain from participating in FirstGen Forward (coaching, tools, peer network).
3. Determine whether FirstGen Forward aligns with their institution's mission, goals, and current capacity.
4. Identify at least one priority opportunity for improving first-generation student success at their institution.
5. Defined next action steps (apply, schedule a meeting with FirstGen Forward, or continue internal discussion).

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# Schedule

## **June 10, 2026** **JW Marriott Austin**

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**5:00 – 6:30 AM | Welcome Social**

## **June 11, 2026** **Hampton Inn & Suites Austin Downtown**

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**7:30 – 8:50 AM | Arrival, Registration & Networking Breakfast**

**9:00 – 9:15 AM | Welcome & Purpose**

**9:15 – 9:35 AM | The Texas First-Gen Landscape**

**9:40 – 10:10 AM | Leadership Voices: Why We Chose to Engage**

**10:10 AM – 10:50 AM | What Participation Looks Like with  
FirstGen Forward**

**10:50 AM – 11:00 AM | Break**

**11:00 AM – 11:35 AM | Institution Readiness Conversations**

**11:35 AM – 12:00 PM | Pathways to Participation &  
Closing Commitments**



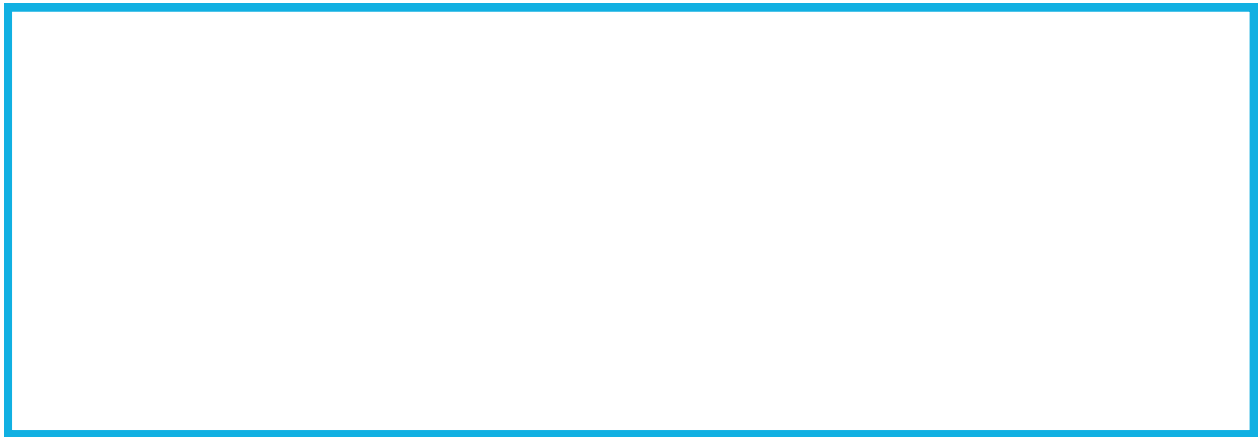


# Leadership Voices:

## Why We Chose to Engage

### Reflection Questions:

1. Who are your current key collaborators for first-gen work?



2. What makes these partnerships effective?



# What Network Participation Looks Like

## Requirements

The following are the Network Member requirements for institutions in their first year of Network participation. Requirements are adjusted for institutions that remain engaged as a Network Member longer than one year.

<b>Virtual Kick-off</b>	<b>Institutional Blog</b>
<b>Institution Goals</b> (2) Minimum	<b>First-Generation College Celebration</b>
<b>Monthly Meetings</b> Network Member Bi-Monthly (2) Regional Meetings	<b>Learning Development</b> (1) Engagement Per Year
<b>Annual Report</b>	

### Complete the [Network Member Application](#) by July 15, 2026

We ask that you complete the application to the best of your ability; please note that it is not a requirement of your institution to actively pursue each area to be considered for selection. We look forward to learning more about the great efforts you and your colleagues are leading.

### [Network Member Application Content Guide](#)

This PDF outlines the application, includes frequently asked questions, and highlights questions you may want to prepare in advance. While not exhaustive, it includes items that may require coordination with campus partners or a written response.

If desired, schedule [a one-on-one meeting with Martin Martina](#), via email at [mmartin@firstgenforward.org](mailto:mmartin@firstgenforward.org)



# First-generation Success Team Roles and Responsibilities

This reference guide outlines common roles within effective first-generation student success teams.

Role	Primary Responsibilities	Key Contributions	Typical Communication Needs
<b>Cabinet-level Leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic direction</li> <li>• Resource allocation</li> <li>• Policy approval</li> <li>• Institutional advocacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive support</li> <li>• Removing barriers</li> <li>• Cross-divisional authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-level updates</li> <li>• Strategic alignment</li> <li>• Resource impact</li> </ul>
<b>Primary Contacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program coordination</li> <li>• Day-to-day implementation</li> <li>• Cross-campus communication</li> <li>• Student engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground-level insights</li> <li>• Relationship building</li> <li>• Direct student impact</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular operational updates</li> <li>• Implementation challenges</li> <li>• Success stories</li> </ul>
<b>Institutional Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection</li> <li>• Outcomes assessment</li> <li>• PDP submissions</li> <li>• Trend analysis</li> <li>• Survey administration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence-based insights</li> <li>• Impact documentation</li> <li>• Continuous improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data interpretation needs</li> <li>• Research questions</li> <li>• Assessment timelines</li> </ul>
<b>Faculty Champions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom engagement</li> <li>• Curriculum integration</li> <li>• Academic support advocacy</li> <li>• Research opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic expertise</li> <li>• Classroom integration</li> <li>• Faculty perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic calendar awareness</li> <li>• Faculty governance processes</li> <li>• Discipline-specific approaches</li> </ul>
<b>Student Affairs Leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support services coordination</li> <li>• Co-curricular programming</li> <li>• Community building</li> <li>• Crisis intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holistic student development</li> <li>• Support service expertise</li> <li>• Student engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student trends and needs</li> <li>• Programming opportunities</li> <li>• Support service utilization</li> </ul>
<b>Students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lived experience perspective</li> <li>• Peer outreach</li> <li>• Program feedback</li> <li>• Event participation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authentic student voice</li> <li>• Direct peer connections</li> <li>• Current student perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible language</li> <li>• Recognition of student schedules</li> <li>• Multiple communication channels</li> </ul>

# Institution Readiness Conversations

## Enrollment Strategy & Access

How is your institution intentionally designing enrollment strategies to reach, enroll, and support first-generation students—particularly those from underserved or adult learner populations?



## Transfer Pathways & Partnerships (CC'S)

How are you aligning transfer pathways with four-year institutions to ensure clarity, credit mobility, and bachelor's degree attainment for first-generation students?



## Workforce Alignment & Career Outcomes

How are workforce development programs aligned with regional labor market needs and leading to family-sustaining wages for first-generation students?



# Institution Readiness Conversations

## Data, Accountability & Return On Investments (ROI)

How is your institution using data (e.g., retention, credit completion, transfer rates, employment outcomes) to assess the effectiveness of enrollment, transfer, and workforce strategies?

## Scaling What Works

Which initiatives or practices have demonstrated the greatest impact for first-generation students, and what would it take to scale or institutionalize them across your campus?

## Equity-Centered Design

How is your institution defining and operationalizing equity for first-generation students across policies, programs, and campus culture?



# Closing Session

## Reflection Questions

What was your “aha” moment during the Convening?

What is one action you feel ready to take when you return to campus?

What part of your work feels most energizing after this time together?

Complete Participant Survey:

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Contact the FirstGen Forward Network at  
[Network@FirstGenForward.org](mailto:Network@FirstGenForward.org)

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH



[FirstGenForward.org](http://FirstGenForward.org)

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