

ANNUAL REPORT

22-23



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OUR MISSION

The Rowan University First-Generation support program, Flying First, aims to provide tools and opportunities for students to have a successful personal, professional, academic and social college experience. The goal of the program is to help first-generation college students feel engaged and appreciated by the broader Rowan University community as a means of improving persistence and personal growth.

The Flying First program provides an opportunity for Rowan University members to increase awareness about the experiences of first-generation college students and to share knowledge and best practices for first-generation college student success.

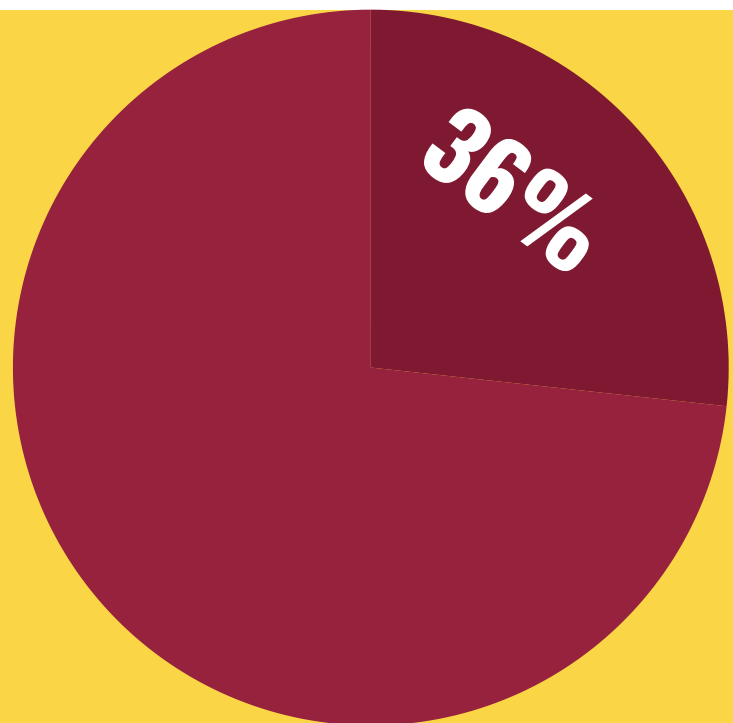


STATISTICS

National statistics show that, without support, first-generation students are more likely to have difficulty finding their place in college and navigating higher education culture. According to Dr. Penny McPherson-Myers, co-chair of the First-Generation Task Force, national statistics show that first-gen students drop out of college at four times the rate of their peers whose parents have completed post-secondary education.

Flying First works to counteract that by providing vast resources to first-generation students, their families, and to the faculty members and staff who teach, advise and mentor them.

FALL 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



FALL 2022 UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT : 15, 264

THE FIRST-GENERATION POPULATION MAKES UP APPROXAIMTELY **36 %** OF ROWAN UNIVERISTY'S POPULATION

1,600	COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATH
1,107	COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE
670	COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
588	EDELMAN COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVE ARTS
443	COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
416	COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
350	SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
152	COLLEGE OF PERFORMING ARTS
80	SCHOOL OF EARTH AND ENVIRONMENT
58	SCHOOL OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

FIRST-GEN VOICES

I participated in Rowan's Flying First Symposium last year and felt grateful to connect, listen, and be inspired by many students and faculty members.

The program (Flying First) has helped me develop valuable connections, skills, and experience that I now use to pursue my goals.

-- Lauwinda Cherilus



I support first-gen students by being open and wearing my first gen status on my sleeve. I wear the flying first shirts and wristbands on campus and make sure first gen students know that I not only support them, but **I AM** one of them and I'm here to help them if they need.

-- Dr. Gregory Caputo
Faculty Member



I would like to say thank you for supporting our first-generation students in breaking old cycles. It is hard for many of us to leave our families and earn what was never expected of us. Support from people like you motivates and pushes us to walk across that stage as educated college graduates. I am grateful to the Flying First organization for hosting events like these and for all the assistance they provide.

-- Olivia Santini



Being a first generation college student to me means that I am taking my family tree to new heights as I do something that was not done by my parents.

Thank you so much for participating (in the Run for Rowan 5K) and giving people like me a chance to make a change in the world.

-- Jovan Rivera



STUDENT BENEFITS

SCHOLARSHIP

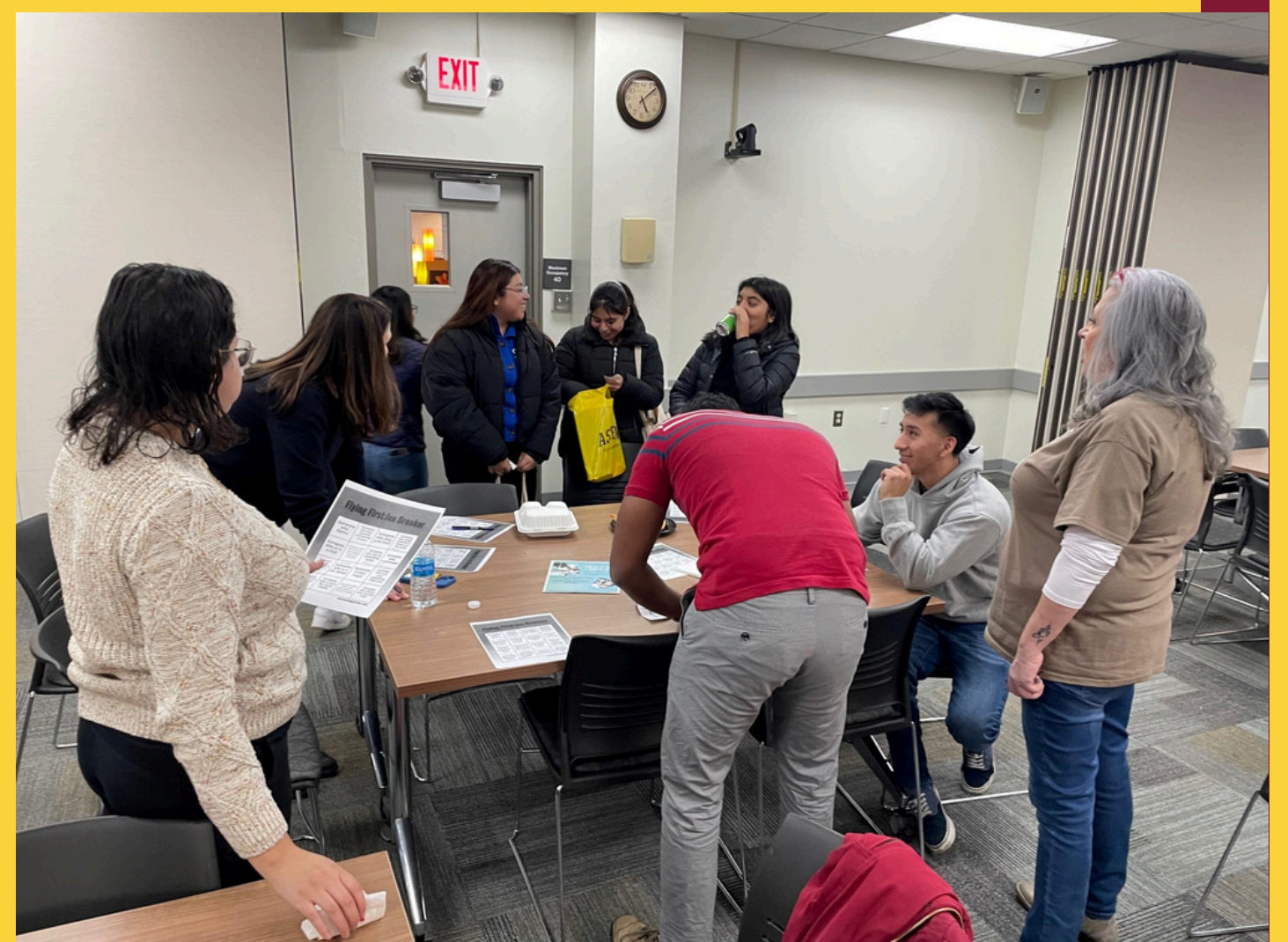
During the fall of 2022, students in the First - Generation Learning Community were offered up to **\$1,200** in funds to purchase books.



COMMUNITY

Pizza Mania: Each semester, Flying First hosts a welcome pizza party for first-generation students. This annual event is an opportunity to kick off a new semester, while sharing resources and building community.

Rowan 101: This year students were invited to join a first-gen Rowan 101 cohort. This 2 credit course provides support during students' transition to college level work. Included among many topics are discussions of academic skills, identity and diversity, academic integrity, and financial literacy.



PROGRAMMING



HOMECOMING

The First Generation Task Force had a presence at the 2022 Homecoming Celebration, Once Upon a Prof. The event took place on Saturday, October 22 at the Glassboro campus. The committee shared information, activities, and interacted with members of the Rowan University community including alumni, students, faculty staff and neighbors.

BE OUR GUEST

The Alumni Board of Directors extended a warm welcome to students at our first-ever Be Our Guest event. Although the event was open to all Rowan University students, the committee specifically reached out to those who utilize The SHOP Food Pantry and our first-generation students.

The gathering provided an opportunity for guests to come together to celebrate the conclusion of the semester, enjoying dinner, engaging in gamified networking activities, and having the chance to win various raffle baskets and gift cards. Over 50 students attended.

FIRST - GENERATION CELEBRATION WEEK

November 8th is the National First-Generation College Student Day to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Annually, Rowan celebrates this date by providing first-gen resources, celebration food and activities, as well as hosting the Tri-Alpha Honor Society Induction Ceremony.



VIRTUAL WEBINARS

The First-Generation Task Force, Parent Subcommittee, and the Office of Student Enrichment & Family Connections, collaborated to host a series of powerful and thought-provoking webinars. Parents, family members, staff, and students were invited to participate.

THE FLYING FIRST FACULTY NEWSLETTER

In conjunction to interfacing with colleagues around campus to discover possible needs, over the 2022/2023 academic year, the Flying First Faculty Committee has developed a faculty newsletter. A few pieces of included content are recent research in teaching/learning, upcoming activities, faculty spotlight, and more.

The committee has also completed key milestones in the development of a supportive instructional communication training for faculty at Rowan.



FIRST-GEN FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The goals for the Financial Resource Committee were to increase outreach and provide financial literacy to all students.

By utilizing the power of presence and the importance of connection, the committee hosted weekly tabling events to engage students, provide information, and answer questions.



DAY OF GIVING

Rowan University's ninth annual 24-hour day of giving took place on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. Since its inception as RowanGIVES Day, the event has raised nearly \$1 million to secure a better and brighter future for Rowan students. In 2023, Flying First received 61 gifts for a total of \$2,122. After 50 donors made a gift to Flying First, an additional \$10,000 gift was unlocked from a first-gen alumnus. Additionally, Flying First had a physical presence on campus at the Philanthropy Fair which took place in the Pit of the Chamberlain Student Center.

SYMPOSIUM

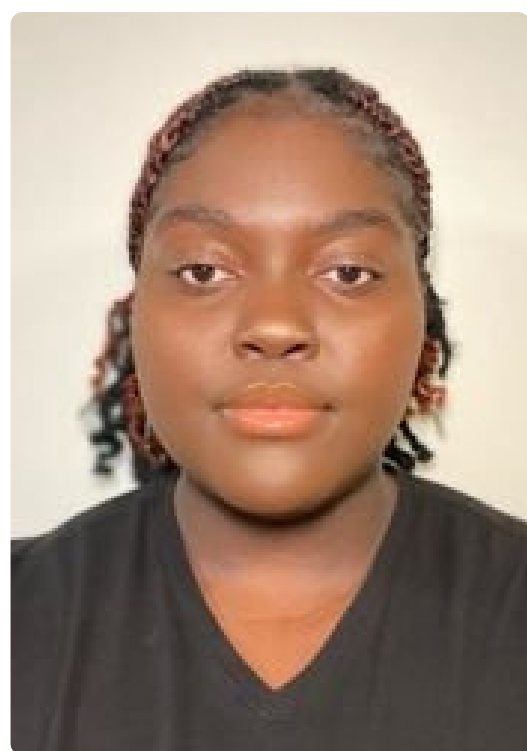


LINDSAY ROMASANTA, ED.D.
Key Note Speaker

The 6th Annual First-Generation Symposium, A Mosaic of Success: Higher Education for the New Majority, was held on February 15th-16th, 2023.

This year's theme, "A Mosaic of Success: Higher Education for the New Majority," invited students, families, professionals, educators, and scholars to share their successes, as well as the challenges that they have encountered. Various topics included were academic support in non-traditional spaces, development of experiential learning, institutional policies and practices, and demystifying the financial aid process.

2023 SYMPOSIUM STUDENT PANEL



Nateria Burrell



Zarqum Masood



Sapjah Zapotitla



Aronday Harden



Ezekiel Abrams

The recipient of the 2023 Rowan University Excellence in Support and Advocacy of First-Generation Students Award is Claude Taylor.

Claude Taylor is the Director For Academic Transition and Inclusion, leading the campus wide initiative, First to Fly at Monmouth University.



Timeline

Flying First was established in June 2017

The Inaugural **First-Generation Symposium** was held on October 5, 2017

2017

Rowan participated in the **first NASPA First-Gen Celebration Day**

Flying First developed the **Glossary of Terms**

Flying First begins to partner with departments across campus to provide **programming** for first-generation students

2018

The **first living-learning community** was established for first-gen students

Flying First partnered with University Advancement to raise scholarship funds through **Run for Rowan 5k**

Flying First received Rowan's **Employee Recognition Program Teamwork Award**

2019

The 4th annual First-Generation Symposium **goes virtual**, attracting registrants from over 50 colleges nationwide

2020

Rowan University earned recognition as a **NASPA First-Gen Forward Institution**

2021

Rowan established the Delta Tau Chapter of the **Alpha Alpha First-Generation Honor Society**

Rowan created a first-gen focused section of **Rowan 101: College Success**

2022

Rowan's Wellness Center introduced a weekly group for first-gen students called **"We're the First"**. First-gen students gather to provide peer encouragement and support through shared experiences.

2023

2022- 2023 ACADEMIC YEAR EXPENDITURES

\$3,314.43

Tri-Alpha Honor Society: Celebrating high-achieving first-generation students through the Induction Ceremony and First-Gen Celebration Week.

\$2,856.25

Symposium: Meals, Printed materials and supplies, FG award

\$2,113.87

Student Events: Building community through hosting student-centered events

\$10,031.36

Student Giveaways: Creating T-shirts, flyers, stickers, and other materials to promote first-generation events and messaging.

\$5,230.00

Department Contribution: Programing throughout the Student Center for the First-Gen Celebration Week.

\$23,545.91

Total Expenditures



Flying First is not institutionally funded.

We rely on the generous support of donations as well as faculty and staff volunteers to operate and provide scholarships.



THANK YOU

Thank you to our incredible volunteers and Flying First Task Force members for all you to do.

Thank you to the donors of our Flying First program and the following scholarships for supporting first-generation students:

Charles & Denise Linderman Scholarship

Christopher DeMayo Endowed Scholarship in Accounting

College of Communication and Creative Arts Flying First Scholarship

Dr. Stacey N. Pierce Scholarship of Leadership

Enterprise Foundation Scholarship

Ferrar & Joseph Renzulli Endowed Scholarship

Gene D'Orazio Annual Scholarship in Business

Gina Lemanowicz Pusloski & Charles Pusloski Annual Scholarship in Law & Justice Studies

Martyn & Cheryl Gallus Flying First Scholarship

Trymaine Lee Diversity in Media Scholarship

Vogel & Woods Merit Scholarship

THANK YOU TO THE RUN FOR ROWAN 5K SPONSORS, DONORS, AND PARTICIPANTS!

From South Jersey to Texas, the 2023 race was the biggest in event history! 414 participants across 11 states raced for Rowan University's First-Generation Task Force program initiative, Flying First.

The race, which took place on Rowan University's Glassboro campus on Saturday, April 9 (or virtually between April 9 and 15) raised **\$14,470.00** to support academic success for first generation students! This event would not be possible without the generous donation of funds, time, and effort from our incredible sponsors, donors, and participants.





 **Flying First**
First-Generation Task Force