

First Gen Warriors: Final Odyssey

Darcie Mueller

Charlie Opatz

Kate Parsi

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WARRIORS



NEW: First-Gen Warrior Mission

*To create a campus
culture that celebrates
and retains first
generation students.*

Strengthening Initiatives 2012-2014

49.8% of first generation students complete a bachelor's degree within 6 years 4-year school vs. 65.6% of students whose parents have a bachelor's degree.

National Center for Education Statistics. (2005). *First Generation Students in Postsecondary Education: A Look at their College Transcripts*. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/das/epubs/2005171/executive2.asp>

Approximately 45% of WSU undergrads are first generation students based on the federal definition: neither parent has a 4-year degree.

Approximately 8500 undergraduate students enrolled at WSU =

Approximately 3800 First-Gen Warriors.

- ▶ OR 100 First-Gen Warrior sections (3)
- ▶ First-Gen Warrior student club
- ▶ Website
- ▶ Advisory Board

First-Gen Warrior OR 100 – It Works!

Cohort #1 Fall 2012 (Juniors) = 77% (+8%)

Junior retention rate all WSU students (2012): 69%

Cohort #2 Fall 2013 (Sophomores) = 82% (+6%)

Sophomore retention rate all WSU students (2013): 76%

Cohort #3 Fall 2014 (Freshmen) to Spring = 93%

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First-Gen Warrior Club Highlights

- ▶ Popcorn sales at homecoming parade, partnering with TRIO
- ▶ Adopt-a-block, 12 students participating on 11/2/14
- ▶ Surviving Finals Workshop on December 1, with 29 students attending, and April 23 with 41 attending (7 students asking to join the club). At the event, students build their own "finals kit" and learn about time management, study skills and healthy coping strategies for stress.
- ▶ The 2nd FAFSA, Food and Fun Workshop, February 17 with 19 students in attendance.
- ▶ Website

Advisory Board

Darcie Mueller, Advisor/Retention Specialist; Warrior Success Center
Charlie Opatz, Career and Academic Advisor; Warrior Success Center
Kate Parsi, Academic Advisor, TRIO Student Support Services
Kristi Ziegler, Student and Campus Services, Rochester Campus
Nikki Civettini, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Elissa Alzate, Assistant Professor, Political Science/Public Admin.
Lynda Brzezinski, Counseling Services
Lisa Glueck, Associate Professor, Communication Studies
Katryna Neubauer, President, First-Gen Warrior Club

Note: All First-Gen Warrior Club Officers are invited to participate in advisory board meetings. There is one advisory board in fall and spring.



New Initiatives 2014-2015

Culture Change

Learning and Sharing

Partnerships/Collaboration

Sustainability

Culture Change:

First-Gen Warrior Awareness Fair September 11, 2014

- ▶ Over 150 students, faculty and staff attended
- ▶ The First-Gen Warrior Club sold over \$200 worth of puppy chow, popcorn and root beer
- ▶ Over 30 students, faculty and staff received information about first generation students at WSU, and picked up their First-Gen Warrior or First-Gen Warrior Ally stickers
- ▶ Six (6) students signed up for more information about the First-Gen Warrior Club

Culture Change

College	Fall	Spring	Total
Business	40	85	125
Education	34	52	86
Liberal Arts	82	130	212
Nursing/Health Science	53	225	278
Science/Engineering	24	78	102
Total	233	570	803

- ▶ 48% of Spring 2015 graduates are First-Gen Warriors!
- ▶ Sticker Campaign
- ▶ Diversity Round Table (Faculty Development)

Culture Change



2015-2016 Study Abroad Scholarship Application Global Studies & World Languages Winona State University

This application assists the Global Studies & World Languages Department to select recipients of two departmental study abroad awards (\$1,000 for Fall and \$1,000 for Spring). Applicants must be declared Global Studies majors. Preference is given to higher GPA and financial need. To apply, complete all fields, save a copy with your name in the filename and email this form to Dr. Yogesh Grover (YGrover@winona.edu) by the application deadline for your term:

Fall 2015: April 1

Spring 2016: October 1

Personal Information

Name

E-mail Address

WSU ID:

Major:

GPA:

Minor:

Expected Graduation:

First Gen Warrior: ☐

Study Abroad Program Information

Host country / Program

Proposed Length of Stay:

Term:

Learning: ACT Engage

Kid's First College Bound

- ▶ 9 inventories

First-Gen Warrior
Introduction to Higher
Education/Orientation

- ▶ 66 inventories
- ▶ pre-test/post-test format

Scale areas of:

- ▶ academic discipline
- ▶ general determination
- ▶ goal setting
- ▶ commitment to college
- ▶ study skills
- ▶ communication skills
- ▶ social commitment
- ▶ social activity
- ▶ academic self-confidence
- ▶ steadiness.

WSU as Premier Institution for First Generation Students

- ▶ Invited to facilitate poster presentation at the National First Year Experience Conference (<http://sc.edu/fye/annual/>)
- ▶ Invited to present a full session at the National Teaching and Academic Survival Conference (<http://tassconference.org/>) but were unable to accept either invitation due to scheduling conflicts.
- ▶ Invited to present at the National NACADA Conference October 4-6, 2015 in Las Vegas, NV. (<http://www.nacada.ksu.edu>)

Partnerships/Collaboration

- ▶ Health Promotion (HERS 315)
- ▶ Kid's First (SPED 300)
- ▶ A newsletter with events and First-Gen Warrior profiles/testimonials was sent to members of the database each semester.
- ▶ Participated at the faculty development round table diversity forum on Friday, February 6, 2015.
- ▶ Inclusion and Diversity Event, April 8, 2015

What Happens Now? Sustainability

- ▶ OR 100 (ALL)
- ▶ First-Gen Warrior Advisory Board (Darcie)
- ▶ Website (Darcie)
- ▶ Club (Kate)

New: facilitating First-Gen Warrior student panel during faculty development in fall 2015

- ▶ Culture Initiatives (Charlie) - sticker campaign, newsletter, celebrating first generation graduates

New: First-Gen Warrior scholarship (Charlie)

Culture Shift: Celebrating First-Gen Warriors!



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ALLY

I'm Proud to Be



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Questions

Darcie Mueller

Warrior Success Center; Academic Advisor and Retention Specialist

(507) 457-5113

dmueller@winona.edu

Charlie Opatz

Warrior Success Center; Academic and Career Advisor

(507) 457-5582

copatz@winona.edu

Kate Parsi

Student Support Services, TRIO Program

(507) 457-5156

kparsi@winona.edu

