



LAGUNA BEACH
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

First-Gen Leaders

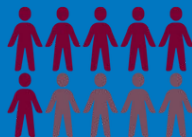
PROGRAM

May 8, 2025

2025

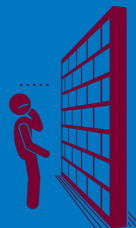


Our Why



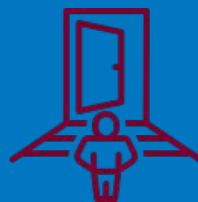
54% of all undergraduate students in the U.S. are First-Gen

RTI International. (2023). First-generation College Students in 2020: Demographic Characteristics and Postsecondary Enrollment. Washington, DC: FirstGen Forward.



Barriers include:

- Limited guidance
- Resources
- Representation



Opportunities for:

- Leadership development
- Personal success
- Generational impact

Key Findings at a Glance



LBUSD Post High School Pathways



LBHS SENIOR SURVEY RESPONSES:

PERCENT OF STUDENTS
IDENTIFYING AS FIRST
GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

***CLASS OF
2023***

20%

***CLASS OF
2024***

19%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS
INDICATING INTENT TO CONTINUE
THEIR EDUCATION IN THE FALL OF
2023 AND 2024, RESPECTIVELY

94%

98%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS
ATTENDING A 4-YEAR COLLEGE

66%

68%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS
ATTENDING A 2-YEAR COLLEGE

26%

29%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS
ATTENDING TRADE SCHOOLS,
ADULT TRANSITION PROGRAMS,
OR MILITARY PROGRAMS

2%

1%

PERCENT OF STUDENTS TAKING A
GAP YEAR

4%

2%

Mission

The First Gen Leaders program empowers high school students to unlock their leadership potential, foster meaningful connections, and drive positive change within their schools and communities. We honor diversity and are committed to guiding students as they navigate their path to college and beyond.

Dream Big. Lead Strong. Go Far.





Program Overview

Mentorship & Guidance:

Trusted mentors, including experienced professionals, alumni, and community leaders, provide knowledge, support, and inspiration.

Personal & Professional Development:

Students strengthen critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills to excel in future careers, inspire change, uplift communities, and overcome challenges.

Community & Peer Support:

Connect with peers, celebrate diverse identities, and build a strong sense of belonging and pride.

Program Elements



First Gen Book Club:

Promoting Literacy and Community Engagement

College and Career Exploration Field Trips:

Broadening Student Aspirations

Monthly Meetings:

Creating a Supportive Network for First-Generation Students

First Gen Academy in partnership with Irvine Valley College:

A Launchpad for College Preparedness

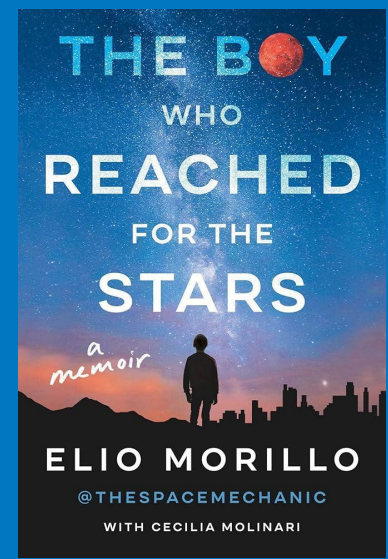
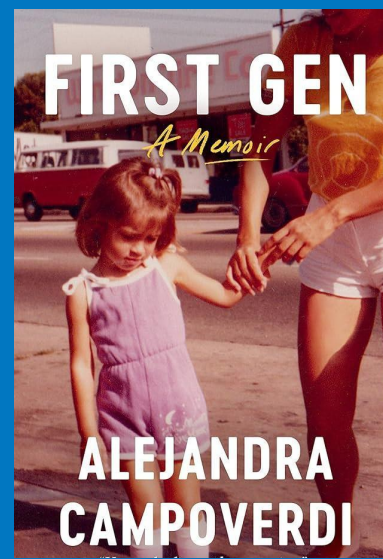
Partnering with Parents:

Building a Village for Student Success

Launched 2024-25 School Year

The First Gen Book Club

Join the Discussion. Participate in the Meetings. Bring Your Voice.





Career Center



Laguna Beach High School First-Gen Culturally Relevant Career Readiness Academy



Facilitated by Cynthia Orozco, M.S.
IVC Career Counselor

As a first-generation or under-represented student, your experiences and challenges can be different from traditional students. This academy is here to help you embrace your journey, value your identity, and create a powerful career narrative.

Academy Details:

Dates: March 13th, 27th, April 17th, and May 1st

Time: 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Location: Online via Zoom

This Career Readiness Program will give students real life examples, tools and techniques to help them craft their personal narrative to market themselves and **get hired!**

Attendance at all 4 session is required to receive a certificate of completion from the IVC Career Center.

Program Topics:

- Change the narrative of your personal journey
- Turn adversity to positive career traits
- Demystify networking
- Overcome *imposter syndrome*
- Market yourself to employers

REGISTER TODAY!

Scan or click
to register!

SCAN



<https://bit.ly/LBHSFirstGen-Academy>

For questions or more information, contact

Ivonne Cortez-Redard, LBUSD Coordinator, Family Engagement

✉ iredard@lbUSD.org

☎ 949-497-7700 Ext. 6202

If you require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Programs for Students three business days in advance at ivcdsp@ivc.edu or call 949-451-5630.

First Gen Leaders & Irvine Valley College



Vision for the Future



Program Pathways



Elementary
Dream Builders:
Career awareness,
storytelling, and
leadership seeds



Middle School
Pathfinders:
Identity, skills, early
exploration



High School
First Gen Leaders:
Mentorship, College and
Career Readiness,
Leadership, Transition



Long-term goal:
K-12 pipeline for
First-Gen Student
Leadership

Scale to Larger Districts



Pilot Sites



Train-the-trainer Model



Local Partnerships & Alumni
Engagement

The First Gen Experience

Student Voices



Thank you!

