

First Generation Faculty Initiative

Update

Faculty Fall Reception

Monday, December 9th - 4-5:30 pm in LSC Grey Rock

You are invited to attend the First Generation Faculty Fall Reception which will be held on Monday, December 9th from 4:00 – 5:30 pm in the Grey Rock Room of the Lory Student Center. Program begins at 4:30 and will include Jennifer Aberle, Miel McCarthy and Kara Johnson discussing ways to help 1st Generation students as they explore career options. Refreshments will be provided.

If you are planning on attending, please RSVP to Linda Krier at lkrier@colostate.edu by Monday, December 1st.

First Generation Faculty Luncheons

A series of college lunches with first generation faculty members took place this past spring semester. The purpose of the luncheons was to engage in discussions about how colleges and faculty members can promote learning and success among first generation students on our campus.

Research indicates that the first generation identity is associated with lower graduation rates, even after controlling for other related factors such as income, race, etc.. Analysis of six-year graduation rates at CSU reveals that after accounting for other factors, first generation students have .7 times the odds of graduating in six years as compared to the odds for non-first generation students. The lunches brought together faculty members and representatives from the First Generation Faculty Initiative Committee to brainstorm ways to address this gap for CSU students.

As a result of the lunches, several ideas for future programs and initiatives were proposed. Many faculty members expressed interest in better identifying first generation students, faculty, and staff members within their colleges. Attendees discussed programs to encourage faculty and student interactions, such as college lunches and lecture series designed for first generation students. Additional funding for scholarships for first generation students and expanded academic advising focusing on major clarification, four-year planning, and financial aid considerations, were identified as areas for further growth. Faculty members highlighted the importance of integrating first generation students into their colleges at the start of their university careers. An additional recommendation was made to develop welcome letters for students that would be sent from the college or department faculty members.

Lunch conversations also provided the opportunity to discuss ways to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of first generation faculty members. Featuring faculty in newsletters or web articles and showcasing their achievements and journey to higher education was suggested.

Connecting 1st gen students with 1st gen faculty

SETTING: Lory Student Center Grey Rock Room

PURPOSE: To introduce sophomore 1st gen students to 1st gen faculty and staff to help keep them connected through their second year and moving towards graduation

OUTCOME: Shared stories and lots of laughter!

On October 23rd seven 1st generation educational pioneers/CSU faculty, accepted the invitation to meet twenty four second year 1st gen students for conversation and good food.



Year 2 @ CSU and TILT Learning Programs sponsored the CSU True Faculty Story Dinner Series for Second Year Students. This program provided second year students with the opportunity to establish meaningful connections with faculty. They came together with professors and faculty from their colleges, departments. This dinner opportunity included time for faculty to tell their stories with students. This was an amazing opportunity to create connections amongst 1st gen students and 1st gen faculty members.

1st gen faculty attending the program included Paola Malpezzi Price, Barbara Sebek, Stuart Tobet, Natalie Barnes, Lori Peek, Tony Maciejewski, and Sally Whitney.



First Generation Faculty

Jennifer Matheson

Whether sharing her story of surviving a near death experience with a large gathering of First Generation Award (FGA) students, their families, and campus allies in the student center ballroom, or telling a funny story to a group of 4 current FGA students and fellow HDFS faculty Toni Zimmerman at a Braiden dining hall networking lunch, or meeting one-on-one with a first gen student who has been referred to her for guidance and reinforcement, Jenn Matheson has the same message... find ways to survive, thrive, and enjoy the relationships that matter in your life.



Jenn Matheson is an associate professor of Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) and the director of the Center for Family and Couple Therapy. In addition to her teaching and supervision duties, she is passionate about qualitative methods and program evaluation; substance abuse treatment and addictions in adolescents, adults, and families; gender and power; and grief and loss. She has worked closely with the CSU Back on TRAC (BOT) drug court-modeled substance abuse treatment program to assist them in evaluating the program and “examining the factors that lead some students in BOT to graduate from the program” (while others do not complete).

Jenn pens responses to questions from the CSU community focused on relationships through the monthly “CSU Life” (formerly CSU Faculty & Staff Life) publication. Her section is titled “Ask Dr. Jenn,” and questions or suggested topics can be sent to cfct@colostate.edu These are also posted on the online website: [Today@Colorado State](http://Today@ColoradoState).

Her battle to survive the mysterious illness that caused her near death experience resulted in an even stronger, resilient individual, and has led to the creation of a CSU scholarship in her name. An excerpt from <https://advancing.colostate.edu/MATHESON> reads:

“Professor Jenn Matheson’s touching tale of survival after being infected with a life-threatening, undiagnosed respiratory infection that hospitalized her for five months is about resiliency, gratitude and the generosity of others. In our department of Human Development and Family Studies, we have a deep interest in studying and supporting “resilience” - the ability of individuals and families to persevere in spite of tremendous odds, and to come out on top.”

A scholarship has been created to honor Jenn’s resiliency. Gifts can be made through <https://advancing.colostate.edu/MATHESON> and HDFS students can apply next year through the “CSUSA” CSU Scholarship Application, accessible through RAMweb, and accessible December 1 through March 1.

As noted earlier, Jenn, along with Dr. Toni Zimmerman, a University Teaching Scholar and 1st gen faculty, have been known to accept invitations to dine at Braiden to connect with first generation students. (Jealous? Contact Barb Musslewhite (Barbara.musslewhite@colostate.edu) 491-4311 and she will invite you too!)

Thanks Dr. Jenn for being a giving, thoughtful, and humorous member of our CSU 1st gen community!

First Generation Faculty Abroad

Dawn DeTienne



Dr. Dawn DeTienne, Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, was a recent recipient of the J. William Fulbright Scholarship awarded by the Foreign Scholarship Board – a Presidentially appointed 12-member Board that is responsible for establishing worldwide policies for the Fulbright Program and for selection of Fulbright recipients. Dawn is currently studying entrepreneurship and the economy in Dublin, Ireland. She is also presenting her research and working with doctoral students in Ireland, England, Germany, Scotland, Sweden, and Spain. Dawn is a first generation scholar who grew up on a small farm in northeastern Montana. “My parents valued education even though only one of them graduated from high school while the other finished a GED when I was 12. I feel so blessed to be able to travel around the world and share these experiences with my own family. It is my sincere hope that my time in Ireland will positively affect my Irish colleagues and my future students at CSU. I hope that I am a positive representative for the College of Business at the universities I visit while in Europe.”