

NOVEMBER 2019

# VIA RÁPIDA

First Year Experience



## Student & Faculty Mixer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH  
1:30 - 3:30 PM  
GRIFFIN CENTER EAST PATIO



Come enjoy FREE snacks and refreshments while you mingle with faculty of various departments. This is a fun and informal way to meet your college faculty. You can ask them questions or simply strike a convo. Your instructors really want to meet you so bring friends. Stop by at any time within the two hours.



## ACADEMIC CALENDAR:

### NOVEMBER 10TH

Last Day to Drop  
Semester Length Classes  
(with "W")

### NOVEMBER 11TH

Holiday - Veteran's Day  
Campus Closed

### NOVEMBER 28 -30

Holiday (Thanksgiving)  
Campus Closed

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to low activity, we are no longer providing mentoring drop-ins.

To see a mentor schedule an appointment on WCOnline.

## SPRING PRIORITY REGISTRATION: NOVEMBER 13TH @ 9AM

\*Priority registration was granted only to Via Rápida - FYE students who completed their Fall semester Via Rápida requirements. Make sure to check your Web Advisor.

\*Schedule an appointment with your Via Rápida counselors to know what classes to take next semester.



## First-Generation College Celebration

NOVEMBER 8TH

November 8 was selected as the date for the annual National First-Generation College Celebration to honor the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The Higher Education Act ("HEA") emerged out of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Much like other hallmark legislation of that era, such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, HEA was intended to help level a playing field that for too long had been weighed against Americans from minority and low-income backgrounds. In addition to creating federal grants and loan programs to help students finance their educations, the legislation made key investments in institutions of higher education. Additionally, HEA ushered in programs, particularly the Federal TRIO programs, necessary for postsecondary access, retention, and completion for low-income, potential first-generation college graduates. - [firstgen.naspa.org](http://firstgen.naspa.org)



TAKE A MOMENT TO ENJOY THE STORIES OF OUR STAFF, AS FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE GRADUATES, AND THEIR MESSAGES TO YOU!

## Student of the Month

ROVINLEONARD  
ESGUERRA

Rovinleonard is a nursing major and an awesome mentee. He has completed two meetings, and was on top of adjusting his engagement plan when needed due to his change in availability after getting a new job. Amazing job Rovinleonard, the Via Rápida team is cheering you on!



# Juan Carlos Reyna, M.S.Ed.

CSU SAN MARCOS & NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



"Being a first-generation college student means you have chosen to better educate yourself and are paving the road towards more opportunities for yourself and future generations. As a first-generation college graduate with other salient intersectional identities (formerly undocumented, low-income, ESL, Mexican-American, etc.), I understand what it means to overcome adversity through resiliency, perseverance, and a strong will to succeed. Remember that the best education you have received is the one attained outside of school, and is usually informed by those you surround yourself with. They help develop who you are as a person, your character, morals, values, integrity, ethics, and much more. Your character will enable you to thrive academically, personally, and professionally, so dream big and continue to work hard."

# Abby Algarin, M.Ed

CSU SAN MARCOS & POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIV.

"Although I am not a first-generation college graduate, I have been working with first-generation students since 2012. I have seen my 6th & 7th grade students graduate high school and pursue their college education, something they never thought would happen when I had first met them in middle school. I know how amazing and resilient first-gen students are and am so happy that I get to work with such amazing students every day! The journey isn't easy, but we are here for you and that sense of pride holding that college degree will all be worth it!"



# Veronica Rosales, M.A.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

"First of all let me tell you how happy I am that you are in this point in your life. As a first-generation college student, I know how difficult it is to attend college. My parents may have not known much about college but they did instill in me to work hard and persevere, which is what I encourage you to do as well. Academics or even "life" may not come as easy to first-gen students but just like I graduated with a B.S. and M.A., I have no doubt that you can too! Your path may be different than mine but what helped me get through college and will help you too is keep a balanced lifestyle. Make sure to work hard but also have fun along the way! Make friends and establish your support system because it's those connections and experiences that truly make your college experience memorable and successful."



# Carissa Cardenas, M.A.

SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIV. & UNIV. OF REDLANDS



"Congratulations on this new path that you are creating for yourself and those to come after you! I am so proud of you all for taking this step, I know it is not easy. As a first generation college student myself I can tell you that this path has many rewards and many challenges. Remember that you are not alone in this venture. We (the Grossmont Community) are here to help and support you. Remember that you deserve to be here, you are smart, you are resilient and you are capable of achieving your academic goals. You got this! Si se puede!"

# Gabriela Soto

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

"As a first-generation student from a low-income background, navigating the process of college wasn't easy. My family immigrated to this country when I was young and didn't speak the language. Going through the school system in America was completely new to us. Despite the obstacles we faced, I knew I had to go to college and get an education even if I didn't know how. Thankfully, I joined an FYE program in college where they helped me get familiarized with college and understand the transfer process. I was able to successfully transfer to SDSU, graduate with my Bachelors, and start my Masters program. My advice to other first-gen students would be to get involved and to not be afraid to reach out and ask questions. In the Via Rápida office we are always happy to help!"



# Gerardo Ortiz, M.A.

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

"Congratulations to all our first generation students. Education has paved a foundation and is the catalyst to accomplish the dreams of our parents, and our ancestors, but most importantly yours. I'm the first in my family to graduate college, but I know damn well I will not be the last one. I know that the low-social economic chains have been and will continue to be broken for all members of underrepresented communities, through the power of education. Yes I had multiple barriers, but I also had immense resilience, which was modeled from my parents who migrated from Mexico to give me and my siblings a shot at the American Dream. As a first generation graduate, I encourage you to strive for the biggest of your dreams, as everything is possible with integrity, good character, pride, and a lot of "GANAS". Felicidades First Generation Scholars."

