

Introduction to the First Generation Scholarship Program at SMU



Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Winona, MN

Our Mission and Vision

- ▶ At his inaugural address, our president, Brother William announced his intention to serve economically challenged students:
 - ▶ *I'd love to make it easier for graduates of the Miguel, Nativity, and Cristo Rey schools of our Region to enroll and succeed at Saint Mary's. This is why Saint John Baptist de La Salle founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools... We were founded upon the conviction that no young person and no family — no matter how economically, affectively, intellectually, or spiritually in need — should ever have cause to think that they have been forgotten, should ever have to wonder whether or not this family has been passed over by God, or by the rest of us.“*





We, the scholars in C2C, are the first in our families to, hopefully, go to and graduate from college. We all are shooting for the stars. We are the lucky 25, the first to be a part of this amazing first-generation initiative.

Manny Hurtado, C2C 2010



FGI Scholars: Benefits and Responsibilities



FGI Scholars Benefits

- ▶ Full financial support: tuition, room and board, books
- ▶ Literacy Specialist as instructor and counselor
 - ▶ College-level Reading, Comprehension, Writing courses
 - ▶ Weekly individual meetings
- ▶ Supervised Study Halls
- ▶ Participation in cultural, recreational program activities
 - ▶ August retreat, field trips, movie nights, birthday/celebratory times
- ▶ Involvement in campus-wide activities
 - ▶ Freshman and sophomore years: Only one extra-curricular activity, plus Learning Communities freshman year
 - ▶ Junior and senior years: Leadership and service expected



FGI Scholarship Criteria



What we are looking for

1. First-generation student
2. Eligible for Pell grants
3. HS GPA 3.0 or higher
4. High on “non-cognitive variables”
 - ▶ Positive self-concept. confidence
 - ▶ Realistic self-appraisal
 - ▶ Understands and deals with racism
 - ▶ Prefers long-term goals to
 - ▶ Has a strong support person available for help
 - ▶ Successful leadership experiences
 - ▶ Demonstrated community service
 - ▶ Specialized knowledge in a specific field



Scholars' Voices



http://fgismu.org/?page_id=11



FIRST-GENERATION INITIATIVE

college access and success

“Access without support is not opportunity.”

Tinto, 2009

FIRST GENERATION *stories*

The faces, voices and stories of First Generation Initiative
at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota

