

Lesson 16 – Supporting First-in-Family College Attenders

Introduction

Doing something you’ve never done before is scary. Doing something no one you know has ever done before can be terrifying. That’s why we’re going to spend some time talking about how to support students preparing to be the first in their family to attend college.

Think back to our model. Remember, the Four Keys tell us that it’s not just learning facts and being able to write papers that will make you successful after high school. Students also need what we’ve been referring to as “contextual knowledge.” One good example of contextual knowledge is the kind of knowledge you get from being part of a family that went to college. Students who don’t have this might lack the confidence to try to get in to college or to access the appropriate supports once they’re there.

We’re going to take a look at how you can help your students gain contextual knowledge, confidence, and the self-advocacy skills they’ll need to navigate this new experience. Being first might be scary, but is also very exciting and can be even more exciting if there’s a diploma or certificate at the end of the journey.