

# Mentoring to Support First Generation Students

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We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.



Welcome and  
thank you for  
your interest

- Quick intro
- Background
- Goals
- Expectations
- Timeline
- Any questions?



# Quick Intro's

- Who we are and how we got started
  - Evolved from grassroots efforts (*Shoestring Initiative*, which is now student-led and focused on anti-poverty advocacy)
  - Met with President Kevin Hall – who is also a first generation student – and he is supporting the development of pilot mentorship program with funding from his office.
  - Now we want to focus on **faculty-student mentorship** between people with lived experience as first generation students
  - We are now calling ourselves *First-in-Class*
- We express deep gratitude to all those who have been working in various capacities to support students.

# Goals

- Have faculty mentors support self-identified first generation students
- Website as a hub of information for students
  - Include information about mentors: faculty/subject and also relevant identity characteristics, why want to be a mentor
  - <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/firstgen/>



# Goals



- 'Speed friending' event – linking up mentors and mentees
  - Give students option to **match** based on **academic field** or **identity**
  - **Aim to match** interests with faculty, but **balancing an even distribution** among mentors, so people do not feel overburdened
  - **Primary and secondary mentors**
    - Secondary mentors would give students freedom to connect if not official mentor

# Speed Friending



## Next steps

- Pairing up mentors and first gen students who could not make this event



# Next steps

- We want people to have **freedom to mentor and be mentored** in a way that is meaningful to them
  - Creating a community of support for students and mentors
- Provide the opportunity for first gen students to socialize to academic setting and understand the “hidden” curriculum
- Academic life can be a scary and overwhelming experience
  - Can be an opportunity to decode norms of university and professional life; demystifying university systems and structures



## Next steps

- Meet two or three times a term, or as needed
  - One of these meetings will be a meet-and-greet for all mentors and mentees, organized by the project team
- Each mentor will work with students to co-create expectations

Any  
questions?

