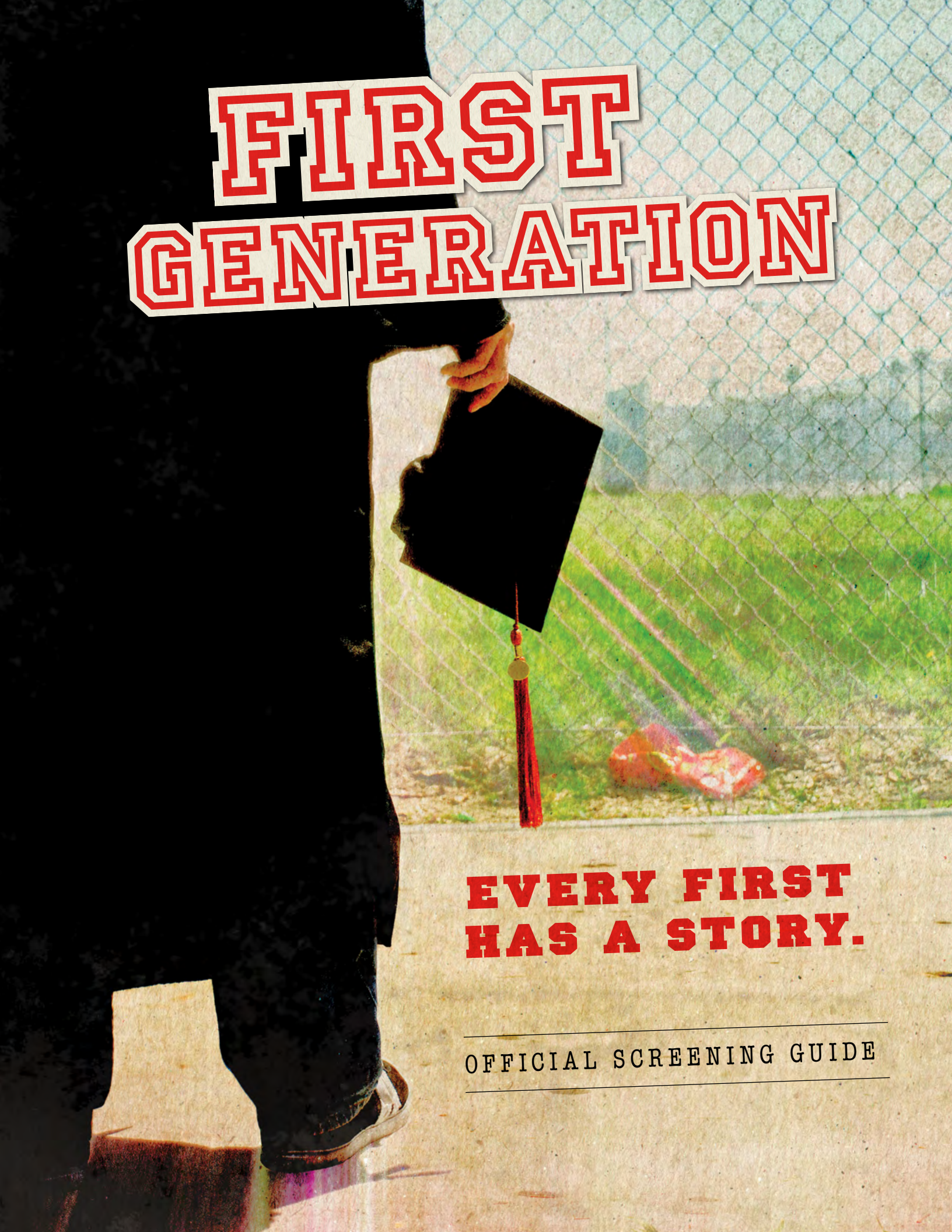
FIRST GENERATION



EVERY FIRST HAS A STORY.

OFFICIAL SCREENING GUIDE

FIRST GENERATION

A DOCUMENTARY FEATURE BY
ADAM & JAYE FENDERSON

Thank you for screening *First Generation*.
To ensure a successful screening experience, please read through the entire screening guide before your event to familiarize yourself with:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM

THE GO COLLEGE! INITIATIVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR POST-SCREENING Q&A

UPDATES ON THE CAST MEMBERS

We encourage you to use these materials to help promote your screening and facilitate discussion after the event.

ABOUT THE FILM

An award-winning documentary narrated by Golden Globe nominee Blair Underwood, *First Generation* tells the story of four high school students - an inner city athlete, a small town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer, and the daughter of migrant field workers - who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education.

Shot over the course of three years and featuring some of our nation's top educational experts (Richard Kahlenberg, The Century Foundation; J.B. Schramm, College Summit; Dr. Bill Tierney, University of Southern California), this 95 minute documentary explores the problem of college access faced by first generation and low-income students and how their success has major implications for the future of our nation.

First Generation was directed and produced by Adam and Jaye Fenderson and made possible in part by Lumina Foundation for Education and GOAL 2025 whose mission is to increase the percentage of Americans with high quality degrees and credentials to 60% by 2025. The film was an official selection at film festivals across North America and had its world premiere at the Heartland Film Festival where it was nominated for a Crystal Heart Award. It won "Best Documentary" and "Best Soundtrack" at the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema, and a "Special Jury Award for Social Impact" at the Napa Valley Film Festival. *First Generation* has been embraced far and wide as a tool to spark the conversation about what it takes to increase the college-going and success rate for low-income and first generation students.

ABOUT GO COLLEGE!

The Go College! initiative is created to help close the education gap for underrepresented students.

The initiative kicked off in 2014 with the 'Go College!' Tour, spanning 12 major cities across the US and 70+ screenings. The film was shown free of charge to high school students, their parents, educators, politicians and influential members of each community and each screening was followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and local educational experts to spur a dialogue focused on increasing college access for first generation and low-income students.

With the success of the tour and the goal of reaching an even wider audience, the Go College! Now web platform was created to inspire a college-going culture by providing free access to the film *First Generation* along with educational resources for students, parents, and educators. Go College! Now reflects the urgency of increasing the number of individuals with a high quality degree beyond high school by inviting users to pledge their commitment to closing the educational opportunity gap. Take the pledge and learn more about *First Generation* and the Go College! initiative at www.gocollegenow.org

GO COLLEGE! NOW

FIRST GENERATION

TIPS FOR HOSTING A SUCCESSFUL SCREENING EVENT

1. PLAN YOUR EVENT

Pick a date, time, and location for screening the film.

2. DOWNLOAD THE FIRST GENERATION MEDIA KIT

Download the *First Generation* media kit at gocollegenow.org/host-a-screening. The media kit includes the official *First Generation* poster image, cast & filmmaker photos, stills from the film, and more.

3. INVITE STUDENTS, FRIENDS, FAMILY, COLLEAGUES AND ANYONE WHO SHOULD SEE THE FILM

Use the media kit to create an online invitation, flyers, newsletters, blogs, and social media posts. Don't forget to tag posts with #gocollegenow

4. TEST THE SCREENING EQUIPMENT

Ensure you have a strong internet connection to stream the film from gocollegenow.org. Check the sound levels and be sure to have microphones on hand, if needed, for the post screening discussion.

5. INTRODUCE THE FILM

Before the film starts take a moment to thank the audience and tell a little bit about *First Generation* and the Go College! initiative.

6. WATCH THE FILM

Stream the full length or 1-hour version of *First Generation*.

7. DISCUSS

Refer to the questions in this screening guide to moderate a discussion focused on increasing college access and success.

If you choose to screen the full length version of *First Generation* please share the cast updates in this screening guide with the audience. The 1-hour version concludes with the same updates.

8. TAKE ACTION

Challenge your audience members to visit gocollegenow.org to take the pledge, get resources, and share *First Generation*. Together we can create a college going culture.

FIRST GENERATION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: If you choose to screen the full length version of *First Generation* please share the cast updates included after the discussion questions. The 1-hour version concludes with the same updates.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

How many of you identify yourselves as first generation college students? How was/is your experience similar or different to those portrayed in the film?

Did you learn anything new about the struggles of low-income and first generation students?

Were you surprised by any of these students' decisions or any of the statistics?

Was there anyone in the film that you specifically related to?

What do you feel is standing in the way of first generation and low-income students reaching their full potential?

What are the benefits of going to college for first generation and low-income students?

FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Which student in the film did you identify with the most?

What questions do you have about college or applying to college that are still unanswered?

Did this film make you think differently about your decision to go to college?

What do you feel is the biggest challenge you have to overcome in getting to college?

What resources can help you research and apply to college?

What steps are you taking now to prepare yourself for college?

One of the experts in the film talks about "finding a college that's a good fit," what does that look like for you?

FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Which student in the film did you identify with the most?

What are the struggles first generation and low-income students face once in college?

How can colleges and universities better identify and serve first generation and low income students?

What types of resources would be helpful for low-income and first generation college students?

As a student who just went through this process, what can you do to help first generation and low-income high school students navigate their path to college?

FOR PARENTS

Which family do you identify with the most in the film?

What is your biggest challenge in helping your child go to college?

What questions do you have about the college admissions process that are still unanswered?

Have you found any resources (books, websites, etc) or do you know anyone who can assist your family with the college admissions process?

FOR EDUCATORS

Have you worked with students similar to those in the film?

What are the challenges you face in working with low-income and first generation students?

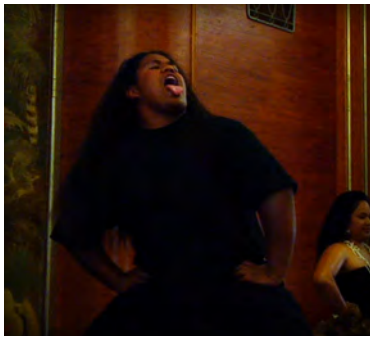
What resources or methods have you found helpful in working with this student population?

What can educators across the nation do to improve outcomes for underrepresented students?

For more discussion topics and FAQs please visit
gocollegenow.org/faqs

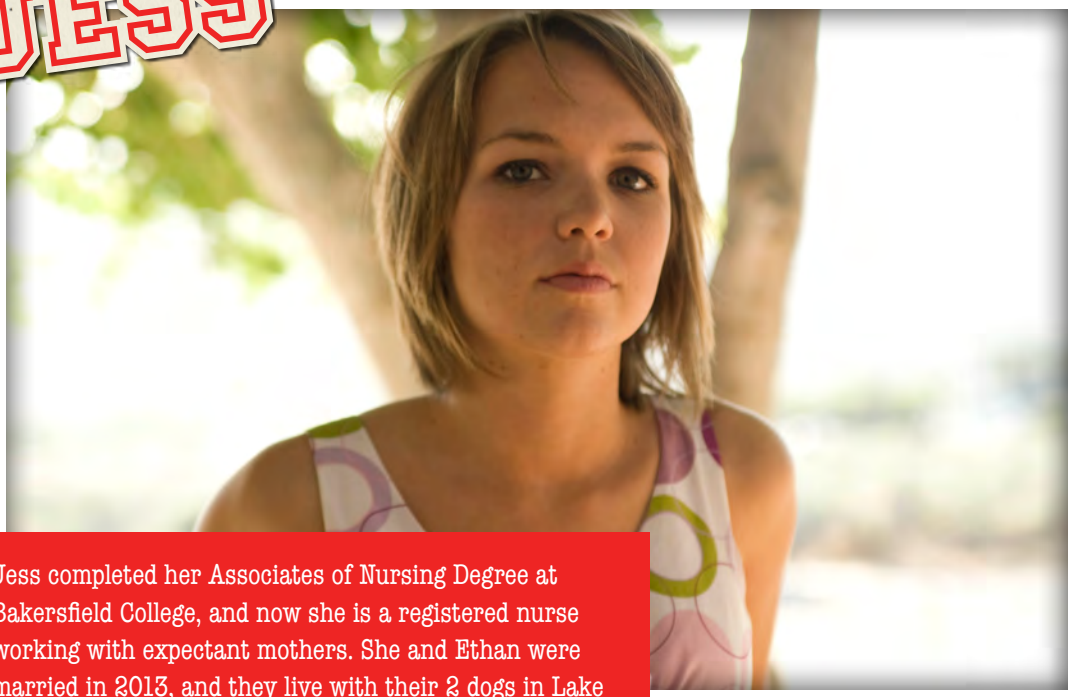
CAST UPDATES

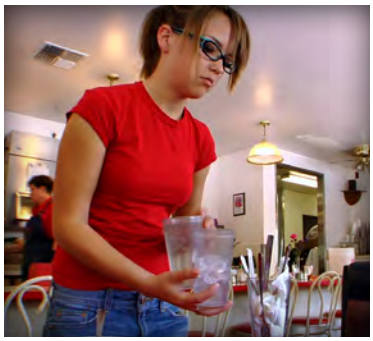
SOMA



Soma continues to take classes at Long Beach City College where he is working toward his associates degree. He would still like to transfer to a 4-year university, but he's not sure when that will happen.

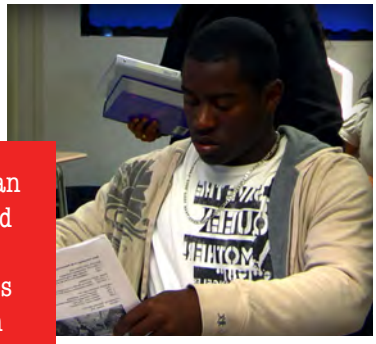
JESS





Jess completed her Associates of Nursing Degree at Bakersfield College, and now she is a registered nurse working with expectant mothers. She and Ethan were married in 2013, and they live with their 2 dogs in Lake Isabella where Ethan is a fire fighter.

DONTAY



Dontay switched his major from criminal justice after he had an internship with Guess Jeans and realized how much he enjoyed working in the fashion industry. He graduated from California State University, Sacramento in June of 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Apparel Marketing and Design.

CECILIA

Although Cecilia still regrets not applying to UCLA, she found a community at California State University, Bakersfield where she majored in Criminal Justice, was the fastest runner on the cross-country team, and graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in 4 years. In June 2015, Cecilia completed her Master's Degree at San Diego State University in Homeland Security and Counter Terrorism. Now she plans on applying to law school and at the top of her list is UCLA!

OF NOTE... Jess, Soma, Dontay, and Cecilia are all first in their families to go to college. They each have older siblings who did not go to college. Three of them have younger siblings, and now all of them are currently enrolled in college! This is such a wonderful example of how one person can change the trajectory of their entire family!

TAKE ACTION

Thank you for screening *First Generation!* Now share photos and reactions from your event on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram with #gocollegenow.

As a society, we have a collective responsibility to ensure that a college education is equally obtainable for all students. As individuals we can each play a role in making a difference by spending our time, resources, money and/or talents to create a college-going culture.

Check out the Resources at gocollegenow.org for specific ways to get involved. Then Take the Pledge to commit to increasing the number of college degree-holders in our country and creating a culture that responds to the needs of low-income, first generation students.

GO COLLEGE! NOW