



JUNE 2007

CENTER FOR ACADEMIC RETENTION AND ENHANCEMENT

CARE PROGRAMS

- College Reach-Out Program
- Student Support Services
- Students Supporting Students Mentoring Organization
- Summer Bridge Program
- Upward Bound
- Oscar Arias Sanchez Honor Society
- W.E.B. DuBois Honor Society

## A Look at the Summer Bridge Program

Last summer the Center for Academic Retention & Enhancement (CARE) Summer Bridge Program admitted 307 students as first-time freshmen to FSU. Participants in the Summer Bridge Program must meet minimum admission criteria (GPA and composite SAT/ACT test scores), must be considered first-generation college students, as well as have experienced challenges imposed by economic, educational, or cultural circumstances.

Typically, most CARE Summer Bridge Program participants are residents of South Florida. This was also true for the 2006 entering class, with slightly more than half of the students hailing from South Florida cities and towns. Approximately one-third of all 2006 Summer Bridge participants were males, marking the highest representation of male students in the program since it was established in 2000. Roughly 85% of the students were members of ethnic minority groups, with over 83% of all participants identified as first-generation college students.



The academic background of summer bridge participants has improved steadily over the years. For summer 2006, the average grade point average for students who enrolled was 3.28. The average composite SAT score was 970 and 20 on the ACT. Additionally, 27% of the students had taken at least one college level course through dual enrollment while in high school.

After the summer session, CARE continues to support and assist all Summer Bridge participants helping them persist and eventually graduate. Student athletes who participate in the CARE Summer Bridge Program are supported by the FSU Office of Athletic Academic Support subsequent to the summer program. Of the 303 remaining Summer Bridge participants, 97% re-enrolled for the academic school year and have made excellent progress to date.

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| Summer Bridge Program Yr | Average High School GPA | Average ACT Composite Score | Average SAT Composite Score | Dual Enrollment |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 2001                     | 3.15                    | 19                          | 940                         |                 |
| 2002                     | 3.23                    | 19                          | 940                         | 37(14%)         |
| 2003                     | 3.25                    | 20                          | 960                         | 38(14%)         |
| 2004                     | 3.29                    | 20                          | 960                         | 43(15%)         |
| 2005                     | 3.22                    | 20                          | 960                         | 65(20%)         |
| <b>2006</b>              | <b>3.28</b>             | <b>20</b>                   | <b>970</b>                  | <b>82(27%)</b>  |

# First-Generation College Students Benefit From New State Grant Program

In 2006 the Florida State Legislature enacted a bill creating the First Generation Matching Grant Program. Under this program, funds are appropriated for state universities to provide financial aid to undergraduate students with financial need whose parents have not earned 4-year college degrees. The program requires participating institutions to match funds allocated by the state on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Each institution was expected to develop its own internal implementation plans and any additional criteria by which to award grants to students, including grant amounts and application procedures. For 2006-2007, FSU received \$1,417,100 which was matched using individual donations and approved private funds from the sale of FSU license tags. Including the match, a total of \$2,834,200 was made available in need-based grants. Florida State University chose to implement the First Generation Matching Grant Program utilizing its existing institutional support structure for first-generation undergraduate students, the Summer Bridge Program.

Grants, up to \$1,500, were awarded to 625 CARE students in the fall and spring semesters. These awards provided a much needed supplement for the students. The first-generation grant is an important measure for helping these students to reduce and in some instances, eliminate the need for loans.



***"This year I received the First Generation Scholarship Grant and I must say that if it was not for the grant, funding my first year of collegiate education and activities would have been extremely difficult."***

-Curtis Sails III, freshman, education

Recipients of the award were extremely grateful and several expressed their gratitude:

***"The First Generation Grant was such a big help this semester. It alleviated my financial stress and enabled me to focus more on school. Because of the First Generation Grant, I made excellent grades and was able to focus more on scholastic issues."***

-Shantizia Jones, junior, social work

***"The First Generation Grant is the best help I ever received. The grant assisted me with not only helping me pay my tuition but also getting books and much needed school supplies."***

-Nalleli De Jesus, senior, psychology

Available in Alternative Format. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Student Affairs at (850) 644-5590.

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