Hello,
I promised to send out an update on all four students from the First Gen movie. I just received the following information on Soma and Dontay. Please feel free to share this information with students and high school contacts that came to the movie.

Jessica is an RN just received word that she passed the licensing exam and is working in a hospital in Bakersfield.

Ceceila has completed her degree at CSUB and has applied to UCSD for graduate work in homeland security. She is helping her younger sibling apply to college.

Soma is still a student at Long Beach City College and since he hasn’t remained very focused in his studies he doesn’t seem to be headed toward a degree anytime soon. However, his younger sister graduated high school and enrolled at LBCC, as well, so his decision to go to college has definitely had a positive impact on his family!

Dontay is currently finishing up his BA in Fashion Design and Merchandising at Sac State, and is on track to graduate next fall! He switched from his Criminal Justice major after enjoying an internship at Guess. Dontay’s younger brother followed him up to Sacramento and is enrolled in college up there, so again another example of how one sibling can change the trajectory of an entire family.

Over 500 people attended the movie showings and we processed about 350 surveys. When asked, "Did watching the movie change any of your thinking about first generation students and college?" 90% of respondents answered YES with 60% answering YES, A LOT.

When asked, "Did watching the movie change any of your thinking about things you could do to help first generation students?" 92% of the respondents answered Yes with 64% answering Yes, a LOT.

Most of the attendees were college students who shared that the movie inspired and motivated them. Many students committed to seeing a counselor, going to financial aid and making their student education plans.

This was good work BC and community! As the students begin to sign up for classes next month and particularly when several hundred first gen high school seniors show up on campus March 14, let’s remember what we learned about being a bit intrusively helpful, asking questions, and guiding them to the places and information they need.

Thanks again to the committee that did outstanding work (Vickie Coffee, Terri Goldstein, Tina Tuttle, Janet Fulks, Kristin Rabe, Tarina Perry, Amber Chiang, Richard McCrow, Alice Desilagua (HS counselors), JoAnn Acosta, Primavera Arvizu, Kim Van Horne, Heidi Forsythe, John Gerhold, Steve Watkin, Janet Thomas, Liz Rozell, Mary Webb, Liz Peisner, Shannon Musser, Heidi Gilliard, Maritza Salgueiro-Carlisle)

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