



PURDUE UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) is a premier metropolitan university located in Northwest Indiana that is dedicated to empowering transformational change in our students and in our community. Our two campuses serve approximately 8,900 undergraduate and graduate students.

56% of incoming students identify as first-generation college students.



Regional Strength, Global Reach



First-generation students

- Median parental income less than half that of continuing generation students (\$41,000).
- 30% have dependents.
- 82% persist into 2nd year (4-year publics), but only 20% have 4-year degree after 6 years (49% for continuing gen).
- Many do not initially identify as first-gen.
- Require customized supports, including mentorship and resources.


NASPA First-gen Forward Cohort

- PNW joined the 22-23 NASPA First-Gen forward cohort.
- 150 schools committed to recruiting and developing resources for first-gen students.




Current and Future 1-gen Initiatives

- **Executive Director for Diversity, Inclusivity and Belonging** search anticipated complete by June 2023.
- **Cords of distinction and cord ceremony:** 236 silver cords were distributed to 1-gen students, faculty, and staff for December commencement. Cord & stole ceremony for Fall 2023.



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Attention December Grad -



This week PNW is celebrating **First-Generation College week!**
We're joining hundreds of colleges and universities across the country in acknowledging the impact *first-gen college students have in our communities.
Did you know that over 56% of undergraduate students at PNW are first-generation college?

Being first-gen means having the resilience to work towards a stronger future. It means not giving up even when times are hard. As a first-generation college student, your presence and story will leave a permanent footprint at PNW. You define Powering Onward!

As a mark of our commitment, the December 2022 commencement will be the inaugural ceremony to recognize first-generation college students through a cord of distinction. Silver cords will be available for you to pick up and wear on commencement day. Standout with the hundreds of others who are also the first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree!

Building on the Momentum

- Chancellor to continue public acknowledgment of first-gen graduates at commencement ceremonies.
- Distribution of “Proudly First-gen” swag to graduates & survey
- Spotlights of first-gen graduates in press-releases by our Marketing & Communications department
- Social media spotlights of first-gen faculty and staff
- Guest spots of first-gen grads on PNW Today Radio Show
- First-gen resource page “how to college at PNW.”
- Tri-alpha chapter planned.
- First-gen faculty, staff & student mentorship program.
- 21st Century Scholar FAFSA day

