



# FIRST2 NETWORK

## STEM Club at Eastern Kentucky University



### HIGHLIGHTED CHANGE IDEA

Establishing a campus club and obtaining Registered Student Organization (RSO) status on the Eastern Kentucky University Richmond Campus.

### PLAN

STEM Club focused on strengthening relationships that STEM students have with other STEM students, faculty, and administrators of Eastern Kentucky University. The club hosted events with the College's Associate Dean, Associate Provost, and the Dean of Students.

### DO

STEM Club hosted social events that provided a space for encounters between STEM majors, professors, and administrators. A Bingo Night was held where students were able to learn more about faculty members at ECU. Students were able to meet STEM professors, the Dean of Students, Associate Dean of the STEM College, Provost, and Associate Provost of ECU. The Open house was an opportunity for students to learn more about First2 and meet other STEM students.

### STUDY

As the club has only been recently established, there is minimal data to prove the club has increased students' sense of belongingness in their STEM field and the extent to which students remain in good standing academically.

The survey sent out at the end of the Fall 2024 Semester had 4 responses with 75% of responses stating students were able to meet other STEM Students who were not in their major at ECU.

### SUMMARY

Stem Club at Eastern Kentucky University hosted events to help STEM students meet with others outside their major, faculty, and administrators within STEM and ECU through events such as Danishes with the Dean of Students, Vision Board Making, Bingo Night, and Game Night. The club has started to collect data on how the club has impacted students' sense of belongingness in their STEM field, if regular club attendance supports students remaining in good standing, and does regular participation retain students in their STEM major.

### PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



### TIPS FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONAL TEAMS

When starting a club, be persistent and have lots of advertising for all of the events you wish to host. Creating a list of events and putting potential dates next to them makes it easier to prep for them beforehand. Also, if you will need outside people such as faculty to be involved, connect with them early and establish strong relationships to ensure their engagement.

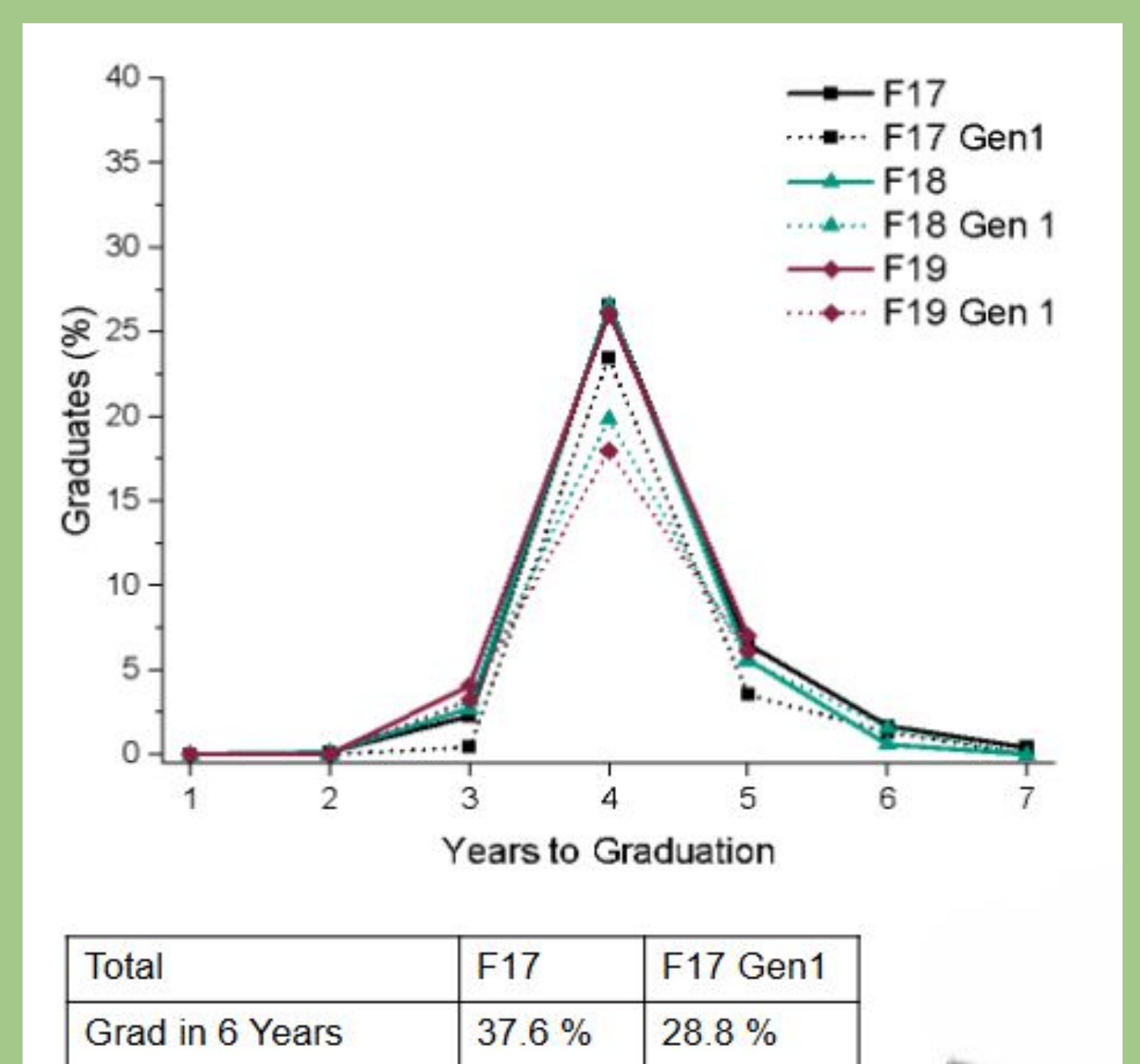
### ACT

The STEM club will be adopted and will continue to adapt to increase student interaction, create a space to increase student belongingness, and increase data collection.

RSO status was achieved by having a group of five students interested in remaining in club. Their information was used to fill out the RSO status form, as well as having a letter from an advisor or institutional team member who supports the club.

### DATA

Graduation of Students Who Start and Graduate in STEM & STEM- Adjacent Majors (retained in STEM)



### DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The STEM Club has not been active long enough to gauge how it has impacted retention rates within a STEM Major. However, data has been collected about the overall STEM retention for the years 2017-2019.

#### Next Steps

Over the upcoming summer, our student directors plan to list out the upcoming semesters events, putting into place signature semester events, and improving upon the past years processes. The plan is to make Bingo and Impromptu Lectures a spring and fall only event.



The First2 Network is supported by the U.S. National Science Foundation under Award Numbers: HRD-1834586, WV Higher Education Policy Commission; HRD-1834601, Green Bank Observatory; HRD-1834575, Fairmont State University; HRD-1834586, High Rocks Educational Corporation; HRD-1834569, West Virginia University.



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