



Fairmont State University Institutional Team Presentation

First2 Network Conference

May 13, 2026

Fairmont PDSAs 2025-26

- Campus Club
- Mentoring Program
- Bridge Programs - 2025 and 2026
- First-gen Panel

Abandoned Idea

- Embedded Help Sessions



STEM Council Campus Club

- Student directors **Shay Chester** and **Danielle Feck** served as president and treasurer
- Biweekly Club Meetings included activities such as:
 - Trivia
 - Pictionary
 - Making Valentines for nursing home
 - Attending colloquium talk
 - Student research presentations
- Larger events
 - End of semester dinner each semester
 - Trip to Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens and Moonshot Museum
 - Trip to Morgantown Botanic Gardens
 - Trampoline park
 - Impromptu Lectures! (organized by student director **Bridgette Altizer**)



Mentoring Program

- All students in our bridge program were given the opportunity to be paired up with a mentor
- More than half stopped meeting with their mentor, or never even started in the first place due to lack of responding to emails
- Students who did participate expressed that having a mentor was valuable for them
- Survey participation was incentivized through a raffle drawing for a SOAR store shopping spree



First-Gen Panel

- Partnered with the Datha and Gene program, a fellowship for first-gen students, to host a first-gen panel
- Panel consisted of faculty, staff, and students who were first-generation college students
- Host asked question and audience was able to ask questions as well
- Survey participation was limited, but students who filled out the survey said they felt a stronger sense of belonging and appreciated knowing that other people understood what they were going through



Bridge Program

- August 2025 bridge program was our largest yet with 26 students. Students were very well engaged.
- Survey results showed a large increase in familiarity with campus resources and some increase in self-efficacy and sense of belonging
- Only 50% of students finished the fall semester in good academic standing, and 27% of participants dropped out
- Planned changes for August 2026:
 - Limit attendance to 15-20 students. Require all applicants to write a personal statement.
 - Coordinate our efforts with Datha and Gene and do some combined events/activities
- Student director **Javier Khaaliq** helped with data analysis



Successes, Struggles, and Sustainability

Successes

- Campus club continues to grow - more students beyond S-STEM scholars continue to join, regular club meetings have become more interesting
- Great student directors!

Struggles

- Faculty buy in - we had to abandon the Embedded Help Session idea because of lack of faculty participation
- Students attending events, even when the event was their idea

Sustainability

- We plan to continue the STEM Council - we are brainstorming how to still do engaging events with less funding
- SciTech Social continues with college funding
- Increasing collaboration with other first-gen efforts on campus