



# FIRST2 NETWORK



## WVU Tech Institutional Team



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# SUCCESSSES FROM 25-26

## Recruitment & Event Attendance

- We recruited 2 new faculty members (Computer Science and Biology).
- Recruited 3 new student directors
- Across five events, we engaged 97 student participants, representing 82 unique individuals across 18 majors (12 STEM).

## First Gen Week Events, IRB, and Sustainability plans

- Co-Hosted First Gen Week Events with TRIO
- Online Student Support Resources Presentation
  - Led to changes in Career center advising
- Improv Lecture Pilot
  - Led to including staff-faculty interactions for our campus
- Submitted all surveys for all PDSA work to IRB and obtained approval
- Submitted an S-STEM Track 3 NSF proposal for sustainability

- IRB submission for
- all PDSA → Approved



Title	Approved	Do	Study	Act	Final Coaching
Campus club for Leadership Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Improv Lecture for faculty-staff-student interactions	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Murder Mystery in a box Game Night Student-Staff, Faculty-Staff interactions	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Trivia Night Student-faculty interactions	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q&A Student Panel STEM Capstone	✓	✓			



## top 5 lessons across all PDSA work:

1. **Belonging is a primary driver of engagement**  
Across all events (Improv Lecture, Murder in a Box Game Night, Trivia Night, Club meetings), we saw belongingness align with participation.
2. **Relationship-centered, low-pressure environments are effective**  
Informal, student-centered interactions (social events, improv, club meetings) were repeatedly identified as the most impactful for building trust and connection with peers and faculty.
3. **Repeated engagement matters more than one-time events**  
While single events produced immediate gains in comfort and connection, sustained participation (e.g., weekly club and multiple events) was necessary to support deeper outcomes like leadership development.
4. **Faculty/staff presence enhances impact but for Tech this remains inconsistent**  
Events with embedded faculty/staff showed stronger outcomes in comfort and connection, yet participation across departments was uneven, indicating a key opportunity for improvement.
5. **Recruitment and data collection are the main limiting factors**
  - a. Low or skewed attendance (e.g., upperclassmen-heavy)
  - b. Low survey response rates, only improved after using donated gift card incentive.

# CHALLENGES FROM 25-26



**Challenge 1**


Balancing the student supervision work with Sustainability and other faculty responsibilities

At the end of the semester everyone is at capacity, when the expectations for reporting are the highest



**Challenge 2**

Onboarding new faculty is still challenging due to time constraints vs F2N and PDSA learning curve



**Challenge 3**

Student participation in more academic events is not easy at Tech:  
Student STEM capstone panel after design expo-  
0 students attended



# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

## PLAN for Challenge 1

- Get even more faculty on board to spread the roles around

## PLAN for Challenge 2

- Peer mentoring model-Pair new faculty with experienced mentors
- Embed onboarding/ PDSA use

## PLAN for Challenge 3

- Start contacting professors with first year students on week 1.
- Incorporate this event into official Design Expo schedule.

# Contact Us!

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