

Abstract

Postsecondary Student Success Grant

NU Peer Navigator Network

National University (NU) proposes the following *Early Phase* project.

Project Title: NU Peer Navigator Network

Project Goals: The NU Peer Navigator Network will achieve the following **goals:** (1) Create the Peer Navigator Network (formative), (2) Create an Interactive Virtual Gathering Space (formative), (3) Design Multiple Credential-rich Training Options (formative), (4) Improve Student Retention (summative), and (5) Improve Student Completion (summative).

Expected Outcomes: (1) increase first-year credit accumulation, (2) increase the annual persistence rates, (3) improve the graduation rate, (4) decrease the time to credential, and (5) increase the number of credentials awarded.

Contribution to Research, Policy, and Practice:

In light of National University's unique student body and the activities for the proposed project, the NU Peer Navigator Network will build upon the rich body of evidence and practice of Supplemental Instruction and adapt that critical work to meet the unique needs of students in an open-access, largely online institution of higher education.

Population Served:

National University enrolled **44,982 (13,289 undergraduates) students** in the 2021-22 academic year. The university supports a diverse student body with flexible academic programs intended to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students. NU's students currently have a **median age of 34 and are 25% Hispanic/Latinx, 12% African American, 7% Asian, and 25% Caucasian/White**. Roughly **60% of the student body identifies as female**, and approximately **32% are military affiliated**. About **25% of undergraduate students are Pell recipients**.

Primary Activities:

The primary activities of the proposed project are to improve postsecondary success for underserved students, including retention and completion. The project will support the development of diverse peer-to-peer support, interactive virtual meeting spaces, and credential-rich mentor training programs. In doing so, the institution commits to improving student success outcomes for underserved students at both undergraduate and graduate levels, using data to assess and improve the effectiveness of funded activities and sustain data-driven continuous improvement following the grant period.

Partner Institution:

National University (NU) (OPEID#01146000) is partnering with the **University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) (OPEID #01011500)**. The Co-Principal Investigators of the NU Peer Navigator Network Project are actively collaborating with experienced staff members at UTSA to support the efforts outlined in this project proposal.