

# Expressions<sup>1st</sup>

THE NEWSLETTER OF

Thrive. Connect. Transition. Evolve. Advocate.

Generation  
@Scripps College

Scripps College

February 9, 2014

Edition 2, Volume 4

## *A Letter from the Editors*

WELCOME BACK! We hope that you all had a restful and incredible winter break.

Many individuals throughout the first-gen community had suggested creating a unique retreat in which the first-gen students could really engage in building community amongst all cohorts. We are so excited and honored to have concluded our very first *First-Gen Retreat* this past week.

From Friday afternoon to Saturday morning, our students experienced a Faculty Panel, Faculty/Student Dinner, Identity Workshops and other activities that centered on themes of identity, narratives, and inclusivity.

In this newsletter you will have the opportunity to understand what our students have to say through inspirational and beautiful zine pages created from the fiber of our experiences as first-generation college students here at Scripps.

We hope that you fall in love with our students' words, creativity, and empowerment. The stories take many different forms and describe a breadth of lived experiences, but the community that binds us together brings these narratives together as one. This issue is about celebration.

We couldn't be more proud,

**Leah Hughes '15**  
**Beatriz Maldonado '15**  
*Program Co-Interns*

### *In This Issue*

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We are so proud of our first-gen mentors for working hard and helping first-years adjust to life at Scripps during the fall semester.

Thank you for all that you do!

*A Time for Solidarity, Empowerment, and Community:*  
**First Annual First-Gen @ Scripps Retreat**  
January 30-31, 2015 – Sallie Tiernan Field House

As mentioned above, after months of planning and anticipation, the First-Gen @ Scripps Program saw its first retreat during the last weekend of January 2015. We had a great time and hope that the tradition continues into the future so that first-gen students at Scripps can continue to share experiences and support one another throughout college in a space like the one created at the First-Gen retreat. We wanted to share the beauty of the retreat experience with the whole campus, so without further ado, here are some photos from the occasion!



You will find the pages of our first annual  
First-Gen @ Scripps Retreat Zine below!





I am first gen.

Hear me roar!!

Go away Jack,  
with your negative mindset.

Two days to read an entire book  
while working and taking 5 classes?  
Ain't nobody got time for that!

No one asked for your rude opinions  
about my race or ethnicity. Either learn  
or speak up or remain ignorant and quiet.

I am not here because  
of: - my race

- my economic  
status or

- my gender.

I am here because  
I am just as smart  
as you!!

You mad or nah?

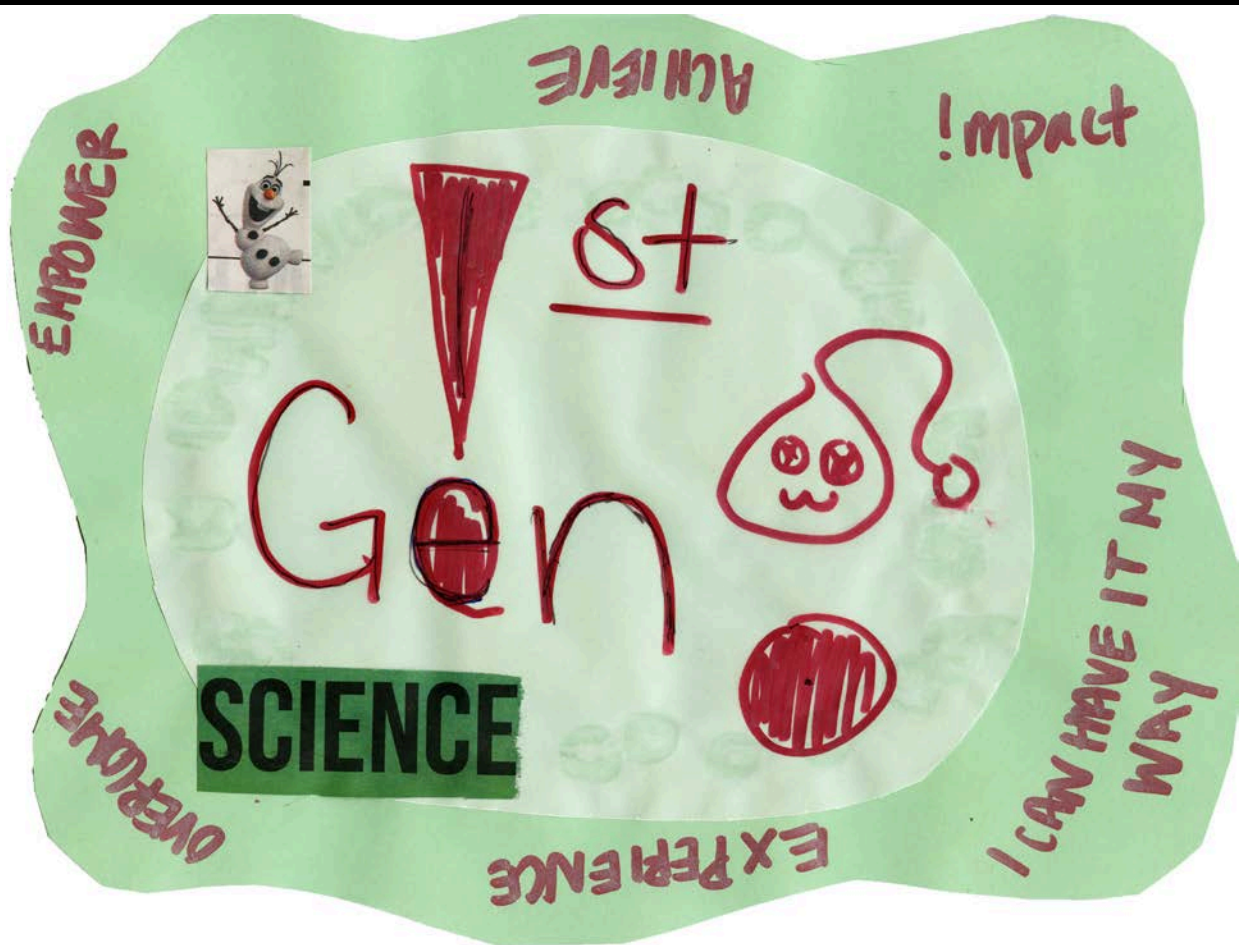
Curiosity  
Killed the cat,  
But I am not  
a cat. I will  
explore!

It's okay to celebrate your  
papers and tests when you succeed.  
Brag about it!!

It's okay to order food because  
you need some flavor in your  
life.

It's okay to tell everyone who doubts  
you to Fuck off!!

It's okay to continue to embrace  
your own culture, even if you're  
the only one.



To feel empowered  
by my community.

To share my unique  
experiences.

To support the women  
around me.

To find my voice  
😊



# 1<sup>st</sup> Generation

What does  
being a 1st  
Gen student  
mean to you?

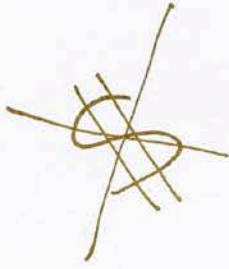
Evelyn Gonzalez



Understanding that our  
experiences are different  
and yet being able to  
find a community that  
validates all of us.



SCARED  
POOR



BROKE

BROKEN

IMPOVERISHED

BROKE  
**TIRE**  
POOR

ANXIETY  
WHY???

NO FAMILY  
WEEKENDS

INJUSTICE  
TERRIFIED

TIRE

Low-Income  
WHY???

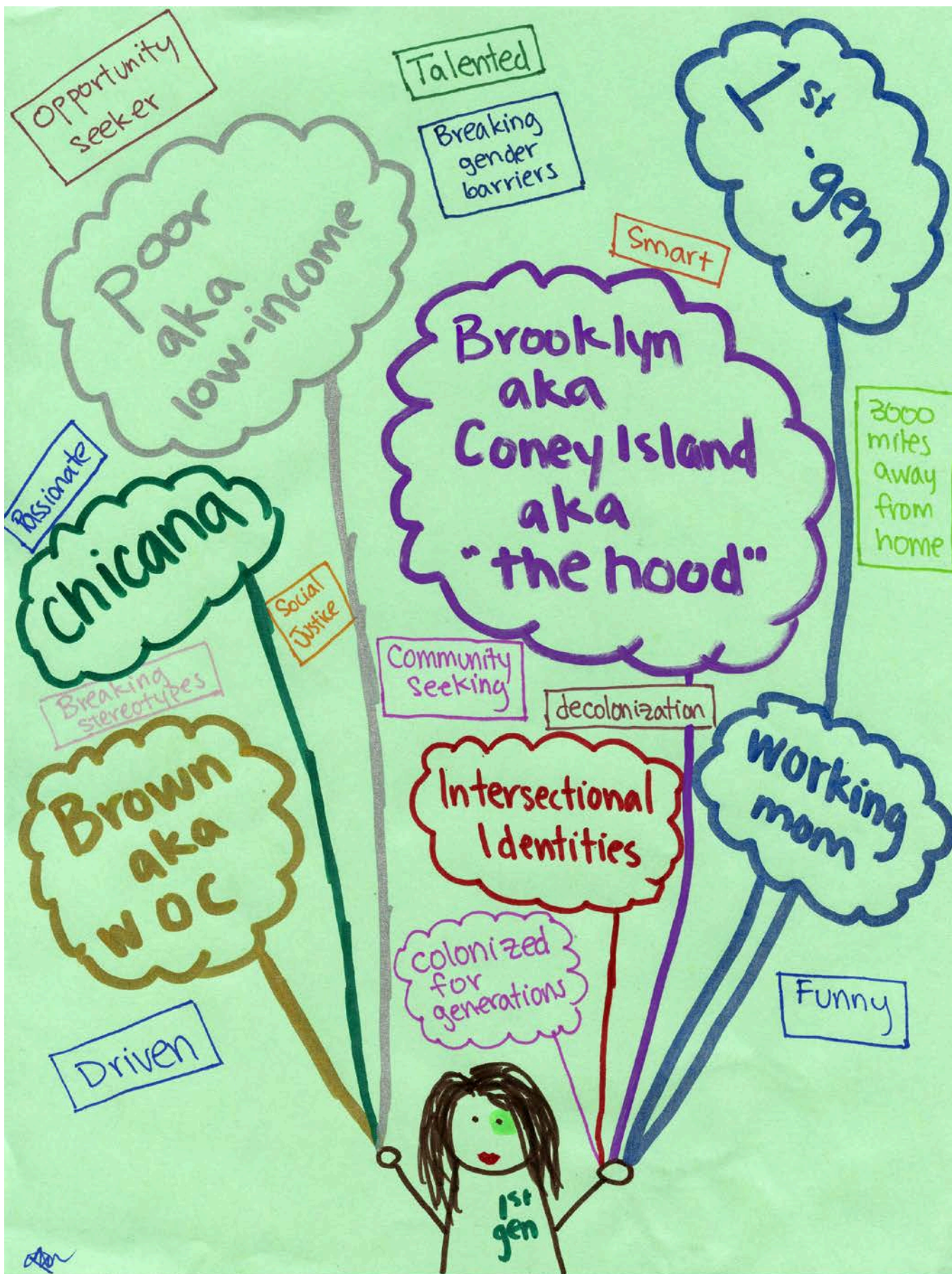
NO MONEY

STRESSED

STIGMA

UNDERPREPARED









Dear You,

I am not an imposter. I have worked all my life to be where I am today. Every challenge I have faced has made me stronger. I am not here to be your poster child of diversity. I am much more. My presence and story will contribute more than statistics; it will tear through and create an atmosphere of CHANGE!

Sincerely,  
Me



First Gen? Yeah! & I am  
unapologetically uncensored!  
& real ZEAL, PRESENT &  
LOUD!;; y no me voy  
a callar!; Soy pobre!  
Soy la primera! Soy la  
única! Pero también soy  
AWESOME & BADASS. I am  
an organic intellectual and  
a scholar! Historian, telling  
stories & paving the way.  
RE-WRITING the scripps  
Narrative  
REDEFINING the scripps  
image

# ANTISEMITISM AT THE CLAREMONT COLLEGE

for Ziad Doueiri and Joelle  
( ) was written by  
er we can for our dignity.  
aged people fighting with  
"We're  
Christa  
a personal, individual  
ced within a much larger  
relationship  
dividual. And as the trials and  
thing to do with who  
of things that  
you regard yourself could be  
estige or righteousness  
relationships are dissolved.  
and comfort of your home  
seventeen other people. The  
one day murders  
for fifteen  
at all. The wife you shared your  
as and not know or  
op eries with people  
even. We can  
to be dear or  
it is  
dis  
l dis  
t  
s  
ns  
featuring  
a martyr  
the woman who  
el more and more  
ce Sahim's steps and  
ne way"  
don't see the  
re off. It can happen  
nothing s  
is, his friend Raveed  
what  
lack of any alternative

as  
ne  
tan  
usi  
nti  
nde

don't know"  
education  
question is, "What are you learning  
the constant  
separate breakouts amongst my

Handwritten signature



1<sup>st</sup>  
Generation

# Vigilante BOOK JUSTICE

OR... HOW TO GET YR EDUCATION, EMPOWER  
YRSELF, AND SUCCEED WITHOUT SPENDING \$\$\$  
ON BOOKS! FROM THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCE...

- ① Check link+ and the library for books!
- ② Check online for free PDFs and downloads  
of your course materials
- ③ Make homies, compare notes, SHARE BOOKS!
- ④ Inherit books from fellow cash-savvy homies
- ⑤ CHECK THE BROWSING ROOMS...!!!
- ⑥ Apply for book stipends + other \$\$ (SAS, Motley)
- ⑦ Check LA and Claremont public libraries!

DON'T CLEAN OUT YR SAVINGS... BE FIRSTGEN SAVVY ☺ LRH'15



## Because of you.

Because it never felt like I had a voice  
until you listened to me.

Because in all the sleepless nights  
you reminded me that each word in my essay  
was worth it.

Because when I was trapped in the computer room  
you brought me pizza and Arizona drinks.

Because walking alone on campus is just fine  
when you are always there to wave at me.

Because when I go out shopping,  
you also get excited at the clearance section.

Because with my crying and homesickness  
you give me hugs and positivity.

Because it always felt like I belonged  
when you heard me calling home.

Because after days of not hearing from  
me for days, you make sure I'm alive.

Because of all the times I felt unworthy,  
you exclaimed how brave I am.

Because each failure, each success, each  
experience has opened my eyes to the  
family who's been here right in front of me.

Because it's the first-gen community that  
has filled my heart w/ humility  
and love and happiness.

that it makes me wonder why I ever doubted  
I was alone.



Empowerment means...

# Finding My Voice

speaking my experience  
as First Gen  
Asian American  
Woman

realizing that my  
self-worth is not  
contingent on  
anyone else's opinion  
of me.

## Sharing My Story

Dear self,

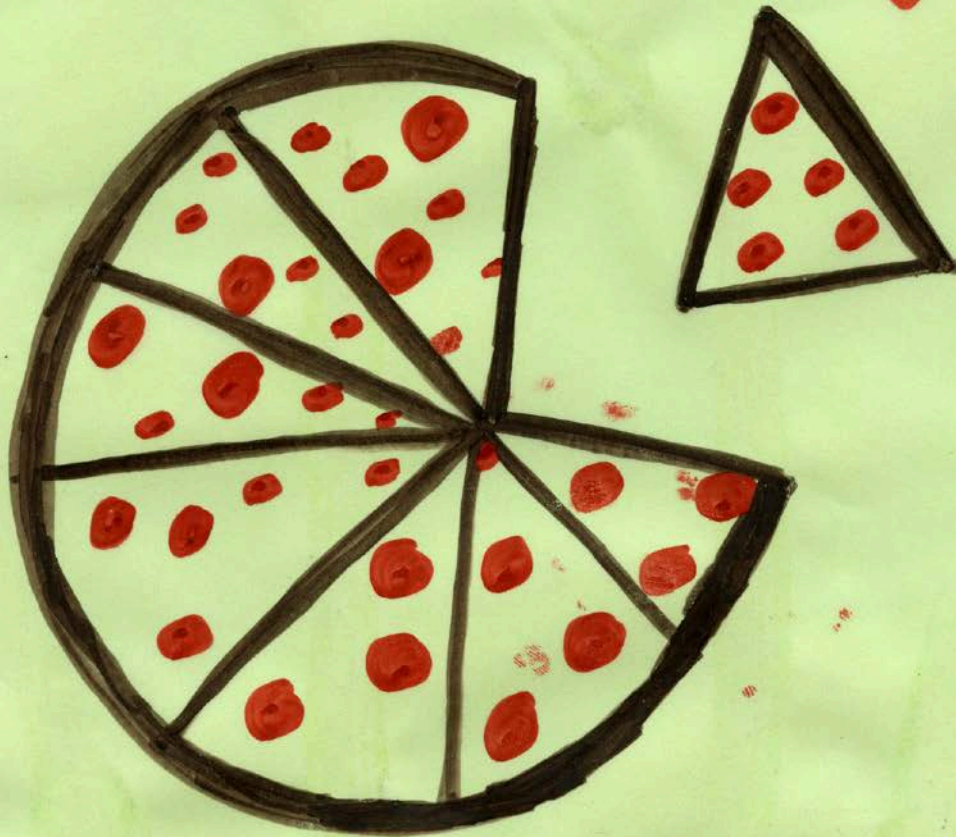
I know life has been tough. I know it can be easy to think I'm a failure, I am powerless, I am pathetic. But that's not true AT ALL. Listen to those who tell you they appreciate you, who tell you they love you and support you, who are there during your highs to celebrate you and your accomplishments, and who are there when you're down and tell you that what you're feeling is valid and help bring you up.

→ REMEMBER TO BE KIND TO YOURSELF



# First Generation

Hot and Ready



Made to Succeed  
For fast delivery call  
1-800-Scripps



Yo, you BELONG! ✦  
Yo, you Matter ✦  
Yo, you're Special ✦  
Yo, you're 1<sup>st</sup> Gen ✦

Yo, you're 1<sup>st</sup> Gen

Doubt is your motivation.  
Do your thing.  
You want to be you.  
Make the life you want.



You tell yourself that  
you are not good enough...  
that you will inevitably fail. stop  
lying to yourself!

you got here because YOU MADE IT  
HAPPEN

you have to love yourself. You got to  
see how special, beautiful, smart, loving,  
courageous, and strong you really are.  
Because you are girl. Conquer yourself. Do  
that, and you can CONQUER ANYTHING

There is no substitute.

♡ Xina



St Gen

What keeps me going?

Beauty  
SUPPORT  
time management

SCA  
Responsibility  
role model  
SI SE PUEBLO  
CONFIDENCE  
hardwork

PHONE CALLS  
LOW INCOME

will  
FAMILY  
GRADES  
Dreams

VOICE  
MENTAL STRENGTH  
science major  
All nighters

LOVE ~  
Friends  
Financial aid

determination  
INTELLIGENT  
STRUGGLE  
school  
POWVER BRAVE

MONEY  
FOOD

poverty  
DOMINANCE  
presence

stand up  
WARRIOR

Tears  
WOMAN OF COLOR  
Home sickness  
Mexican American

significance  
Korean dramas  
Motherly figure

Experience

The obstacles I face?

What makes me me?





# FIRST \* GEN Manifesto

we are all here for a reason  
bringing new insights and experiences  
to classrooms and workspaces

→ to the Motley and the library  
we face many unique challenges  
→ represent many intersectional identities in Claremont

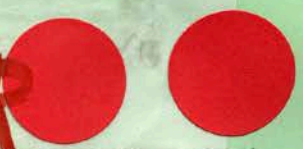
IT ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, FUN, SIMPLE

*but it's easier when we have*

... *each other* ...

to live study party eat work PASSION  
SOLIDARITY COMMUNITY...

WE WILL SUCCEED TOGETHER



LRH '15



I AM HERE

not because I am  
BLACK,

not because I am  
FIRST GEN.

I AM HERE b/c I  
am Smart, gifted, &  
capable of greatness.



SEEING MORE PEOPLE LIKE ME

Scripts Voice



IT'S TIME FOR

Change.

IT'S TIME FOR

~~MY~~  
Scripps Voice

to BE HEARD b/c

~~GEN~~  
THE FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

is NOT the  
SCRIPPS experience.

## *Making Our Experiences Known:* **First-Gen in the News**

Over the course of winter break and the beginning of the semester, first-gen students and first-gen student affairs made headlines across the country:

### **Intersectionality and First-Gen Identity**

According to *Forbes* in a recent article entitled "In College Access, 'Who' Is As Important As 'How'", student mentoring might be one of the best strategies to ensure positive outcomes for students with intersectional considerations, including first-generation college students. Check it out:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/garrettneiman/2015/02/04/in-college-access-who-is-as->

### **The Pride in Being First-Gen**

Harvard sophomore and fellow first-gen student Nu Xiong penned an empowering article detailing how she overcame shame about her first-generation identity by celebrating the many skills that first-generation college students bring to their communities. In the spirit of our retreat, give it a read:

<http://www.firstgenerationstudent.com/blog/taking-pride-in-your-first-generation->

### **First-Geners Speaking Out**

On January 5, 2015, our very own first generation first year Prisma Herrera published an article in *XOJane* and *Time* entitled "How President Obama's New Immigration Policy Is Going To Change My Life." In the article, Prisma describes her life story as it relates to issues on education, immigration, income, and empowerment--we couldn't be more proud of her and thankful for the statement she's made.



Read more about Prisma's experiences over at *Time*:

<http://time.com/3652618/obama-immigration-policy/>



# Parting Words

Have you wondered how your experience compares to that of someone else with similar challenges? Have you ever felt like an imposter, hesitant to celebrate your academic victories or proclaim your intelligence in a space that feels foreign to you? Have you ever wondered how you fit within a greater community of people, or wanted to feel supported by those around you?

Us too. It hasn't always been an easy road! But with friendship and a healthy helping of food, we made it work, and so can you.

Come join us!



## UPCOMING FIRST-GEN EVENTS:

- **FIRST YEARS:** We're having a back-to-school dinner catch-up to debrief on Winter Break, new classes, lessons learned from last semester, and everything in between.

Come to Malott South Meeting Room in the basement of Malott between 5 and 6 on Wednesday, February 18 and share a meal with the community!

- **OPEN TO EVERYONE:** Confused about financial aid renewal? We're planning a financial aid workshop! Look for a heads-up in your inbox in the next week or so with details and RSVP.

## We Want to Hear From You!

To inspire our readers and recognize your accomplishments, we would like to feature your story in one of our upcoming newsletters. Please send us a personal article or poem depicting your experience as a first-gener to [firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu](mailto:firstgeneration@scrippscollege.edu).