



# First Generation Project

*Seattle University*

## **Program Description**

The First Generation Project is a volunteer/paid mentoring program that pairs first generation college students at Seattle University with low-income and first generation college-bound high school students. First Generation Project volunteers are AmeriCorp members and provide mentor and tutoring at four community partner organizations: Treehouse After-school Tutoring Program, College Access Now at Garfield High School and Franklin High school, and YMCA Black Achievers Program. Every week teams of students serve as mentors and tutors at these locations. Throughout the year an AmeriCorps staff member and a member of the Seattle University staff provide training for student tutors and mentors.

This program is designed to provide support for first generation high school students to allow them to overcome hurdles in the application process and to successfully enroll in college. With the help from experienced first generation college students, high school students first in their family to attend college will receive support and encouragement to continue on into higher education.

## **History**

In 2006-2007, 19 Seattle University First Generation Project volunteers provided over 1,600 hours of mentoring and tutoring to over 80 local first generation high school students planning to attend college. This program is in its second year and intends to evaluate looking at participant student experiences.

## **Goals**

The goals for the project are to increase the graduation and matriculation rates of the first-generation college-bound students.