2014 – 2015 was the first year of the First Billikens Mentoring Program, an initiative that set up 28 first-year, first-generation students with a first-generation faculty or staff mentor. Data was gathered from a student pre-survey, and student post-survey, as well as faculty interviews following the first semester of the program. Additionally, during the spring of 2013 and fall of 2014, focus groups were also held with first-generation students.

**Major Findings**

1. Prior to participation in the program, only 26% indicated feeling comfortable with at least one staff member on campus.

2. Following the first semester of the program, 72% of students indicated feeling comfortable with at least one staff member on campus.

3. Many faculty and staff discussed feeling that they were giving back to students who were experiencing college much in the same way they had as an undergraduate student.

“The percentage of SLU students who are first generation.

15%”

**Future Recommendations**

1. Future mentoring program coordinators should consider additional ways to get students to interact with each other to achieve a sense of solidarity.