



About UStrive

UStrive helps individuals **achieve their college and career dreams**. We do this by connecting them to mentors through our virtual mentoring platform.

About the UStrive model:

- All mentoring interactions take place virtually, on UStrive's own online platform.
- Over 1.7 million students have opted in for a UStrive mentor.
- 85% of UStrive students are young people of color. 80% are from households with less than \$50,000 in annual income.
- UStrive works, with college enrollment and persistence rates significantly higher than national averages.
- 90% of students say they feel more confident about college and career plans because of their UStrive mentor.
- UStrive volunteer mentors are employees and clients from companies who partner with us, like American Express, Deloitte, Palo Alto Networks, and more.
- Contributions from our college partners help keep UStrive free for any student who needs a mentor.
- UStrive also serves individuals whose best fit path to a self-sustaining career is something other than college, such as trade school.

Student Testimonials



Mentee: Jada

“My mentor has been phenomenal, not only has he gone over my essays and given great feedback, but we have done mock interviews and just talked about ways I can work on my course load and additional responsibilities. Having a mentor is so important; to not have that additional support can be crippling. It can feel as though no one is there to help you, and very stressful especially during these times in quarantine, where parents aren’t always there to be there for help. Having a mentor allows for you to have not only support, but really bring out the potential in what you can do with some additional encouragement.”



Mentee: Sami

“I heard about UStrive while searching for support. I am a child of Iraqi and Bosnian war refugees, and I did not have the requisite information, network, or advice to navigate my undergraduate experience. Upon discovering the website through a search, I learned of UStrive’s commitment to pairing first-generation college students with mentors at top companies and immediately signed up. My mentor Ethan has been incredibly supportive through the college process. We meet regularly to discuss building a professional career in politics or public policy. He has the experience, understanding, and wisdom to not just mentor but also champion an aspiring public servant. With his consistent availability, mentorship, and support, I have been able to secure competitive national scholarships and land an internship at the U.S. Department of State.” Sami has since been selected for a White House internship, as well.

Mentor Testimonials



Mentor: Naomi

“I’ve loved getting to know my mentee and learning more about her background, hobbies, and interests. The [UStrive] program is very organized. The program lets mentors and mentees forge their own relationships while providing resources and support to do so.”



Mentor: Malcolm

“When I reflect on my time as a high school student and then undergraduate, I see where small nuggets of information and a little guidance could have paid huge dividends. I serve as a mentor in hopes that I can share information, perspectives and experiences that produce substantial returns for those with backgrounds like my own... Being a mentor is like having a front row seat to the greatest show on earth! I witness my mentees working diligently towards their goals and accomplishing feats that will not only benefit their lives, but their families as well.”



I'm First! is a UStrive initiative focused on celebrating and supporting first gen students.

About I'm First!:

- I'm First! merged with UStrive in 2016,
- Every year, UStrive + I'm First! publish the I'm First! Guide to College, a guidebook tailored to meet the unique needs of students who will be the first in their families to attend college.
- 10,000 copies of the I'm First! Guide to College are distributed to high schools, TRIO programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and more throughout the year.
- First Gen students, alumni, and staff can share their experiences on the I'm First! [website and blog](#).
 - Check out former First Lady Michelle Obama's I'm First! video testimonial [here](#).
- Colleges can even show their support for first gen students by hopping on the I'm First! bandwagon, purchasing customized pins, buttons, and T-Shirts in their signature colors on the [I'm First! store](#).

Partner Testimonials

Partner: Centre College

“Strive for College [now UStrive.org] allows our students to virtually explore careers and expand their professional networks, far ahead of graduation day. By connecting students with trained mentors and working adults at leading employers, we are expanding their career options.”

-Sarah Scott, Associate Dean and Director of the Grissom Scholars Program at Centre College

About the I'm First! Guidebook

“This is an amazing resource for first-generation students and underrepresented students alike. As a 1st-gen college graduate and a current college counselor, I easily identify with the initiative and the issues it aims to support. It is amazing to see how resources have generally developed over the years, but none come close to this!”

-Devon Carmichael, College Advisor at the Wight Foundation

“The I'm First Guide is a great resource. It really makes the college search process a bit less overwhelming. We work with students as early as freshman year in the college search process. In addition, we are partners with a non-profit that targets first generation economically challenged students and this guide has been a tremendous help.”

-Jean Flowers, Partner at the College Resource Center

SXSW EDU

In March 2022, UStrive participated in a SXSW EDU panel, “Landing the First Job: Employment in Time of COVID,” with Alicia Rose of UStrive corporate partner Deloitte and Dr. Yolanda Norman of UStrive college partner Concordia University Texas, an MSI (Minority Serving Institution). Listen [here](#).

L-R: Michael Collins, Vice President, Jobs for the Future; Alicia Rose, Deputy CEO, Deloitte; Michael Carter, Founder & CEO, UStrive

