only 22% of first-generation college students meet college readiness benchmarks for math

only 17% of first-generation college students meet college readiness benchmarks for science

Garriott et al. 2016

much more work to be done to empower first-generation college students pursuing engineering degrees + careers

SWE’s First Generation Students & Professionals Affinity Group created in 2023 to foster a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive culture.

- spotlight strengths developed through this background / identity
- create an intergenerational support network
- shared experience of forging own path into the engineering profession without the advantage of familial guidance

→ how to successfully navigate university and industry pathways
→ peer-to-peer mentoring, future growth, networking, and leadership in SWE + workplace
→ empower first-generation students and professionals within SWE from all geographic locations, cultures, environmental experiences, and career paths

Your first-gen identity is how you personally choose to define it! 😊