

The Village Executive Summary

First-generation high school students face many challenges on their journey towards higher education. These students often lack familial support and guidance, as their parents may not have firsthand experience navigating the complexities of the college application process. Additionally, they may grapple with low academic self-esteem, stemming from a lack of role models or encouragement within their immediate social circles. Many first-generation students struggle with a fundamental understanding of the purpose and benefits of pursuing higher education, leading to uncertainty about their future career paths. Financial barriers further exacerbate their challenges, as they may lack resources to cover application fees, standardized test costs, or college tuition. Moreover, these students may be unaware of available scholarships, internships, or employment opportunities, hindering their ability to access essential resources for success. The lack of exposure to the college experience and unfamiliarity with application procedures further compounds their difficulties. These multifaceted obstacles underscore the critical need for tailored support and mentorship to empower first-generation students to overcome barriers and achieve their academic aspirations.

The Village's approach centers around fostering mentorship among like-minded peers to address the challenges faced by first-generation high school students in pursuing higher education. Through a dedicated website, students will have access to peer mentors who understand their unique struggles and aspirations. These mentors will provide invaluable guidance and support, sharing their own experiences and insights to help navigate the college application process with confidence. By connecting students with peers who have successfully overcome similar obstacles, The Village creates a supportive community where students can learn from each other and build lasting connections. Additionally, the website will offer practical resources tailored to the needs of first-generation students, further enhancing the mentorship experience. Through this peer mentorship model, The Village empowers students to overcome barriers and pursue their academic goals with the support of a like-minded community.

The Village is a self-sustaining educational and employment platform designed for first-generation high school and college students. To alleviate the financial strain on first-generation high school students, The Village is financed through our employment platform. This platform addresses a gap in the college student community by offering a job board specifically tailored to short-term, part-time, flexible, and local positions. In its first year of operation, The Village will focus on one high school and one college, gradually expanding to a second high school within the first year. By year three, the plan is to have reached ten high schools and five colleges, including UW Seattle, serving over 300 first-generation high school students. This expansion plan will allow The Village to be profitable by year three with a net profit of \$42,871.

Mission Statement

The Village is committed to equipping first-generation high school students with a like-minded peer mentorship and a step-by-step guide to help them reach their full professional academic and potential.

Vision Statement

We envision a society with equitable opportunity and success for every student