

Relationships matter most.

Today, our network had the opportunity to learn directly from students about the challenges they are facing as they matriculate into postsecondary this fall.

OneGoal scholars shared their experiences, as well as some of the supports that are helping them navigate the college-going process during COVID-19. Here's what we heard...

What challenges are you facing as you move into postsecondary school?

- Student Life: Will we be on campus in the fall? And if so, what will that be like for student housing, dining, group gatherings, and classes?
- Safety: Will there be a COVID-19 outbreak on campus? I'm concerned about other students' health and my own.
- Administrative work: I need help with the school's required immunization forms.
- Financial Aid: I need help understanding how much financial aid I'll receive, and whether costs will be different if school is virtual. I also need help filling in the gaps between my aid offer and what I need to pay.
- Technology: I need help getting my own devices and internet access; I was using the library computer or borrowing from friends when I could.
- Support System: I need someone checking up on me and making sure I'm staying on top of my academics and that I'm doing everything I need to.

What supports are helping you?

- Regular, frequent check-ins from someone who cares about me (text, phone, email, etc).
- My relationships with my mentors, family, and college counselor, and especially my OneGoal advisor
- Connections to help navigate campus resources, especially during COVID isolation.
- Peers reaching out.

What lessons are you taking from this year into next year?

- How to adapt to anything.
- Don't take anything for granted – you never know when everything will change.
- Stay motivated, stay on track, and go hard.
- Just keep going, no matter what life throws at you.
- Maintain a positive outlook.