

Header image

Web Blurb

Welcome to the the *First Things First* project, a test in “virtual” mentorship. This idea, an evolution of UCI’s [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), is designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new virtual mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI’s entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment.

(grid of articles, stacked)

What To Expect

Each week, the two freshmen students (selected through a competitive application process) will record a video responding to a prompt provided by their faculty mentors. The prompts will encourage the students to share their unique impressions, experiences and insights on a range of topics related to their experiences as a first-gen, first-year student. Then, faculty mentors will respond with their own video, offering advice, sharing strategies and reflecting on their own similar experiences. The video dialogue aims to reach a wide community of UCI first-gen students and to help them feel recognized, understood and encouraged as they confront the challenges of their new remote learning environment.

During Weeks Five and Ten, the faculty and students will meet face-to-face via Zoom. These video calls will invite more in-depth conversations between mentor and mentee. Through the process of creating both individual and collaborative videos, faculty and students will establish rapport, get to know each other and strengthen their connections.

1st article: Week 2: Why Are You at UCI?

Image:

In their first videos of the *First Things First* series, incoming first-gen students Leon Masuda and Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera answer the prompt “Why Are You At UCI?” Their faculty mentors, Professor Pavan Kadandale and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford, respond and discuss how their own experiences as first-gen undergraduates compared or differed.

Leon Masuda

Freshman Math major Leon Masuda explains why she’s excited to attend UCI as a first-gen, low-income, immigrant student and how it brings her one step closer to her dream of becoming a role model and caring for her family.

Professor Pavan Kadandale Responds to Leon

Responding to Leon’s “Why Are You At UCI?” video, Professor Pavan Kadandale shares how much her experiences remind him of his own story and how her hopes and dreams resonate with the wider first-gen community.

(Embedded Playlist 1):

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcjHXyh5ZkV2TS6gCbtfSjpV2Py6CnNs_

Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera

Freshman Biological Sciences major and first-gen student Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera talks about her desire to help others and how attending UCI allows her to work towards this goal without compromising the values she grew up with.

Professor Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta

Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford responds to Gretta’s video and commends her for her commitment to helping others. She also shares what her own focus was when she was attending college as a first-gen student.

(Embedded playlist 2):

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcjHXyh5ZkV3At3LeNzsc58X1rzPjdSat>

The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI’s [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI’s entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Student Social Handles

Leon:

- **Instagram:** @leon.masuda
- **Facebook:** Leon Masuda
- **Twitter:** @MasudaLeon
- **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/leon-masuda-2561381b5](https://www.linkedin.com/in/leon-masuda-2561381b5)

Gretta:

- **Instagram:** @gre.tt.a

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gretta.ozuna>
 -
-

WEEK 2 PROMPT: Why are you here? (Feel free to interpret this broadly--ie, why are you at UCI? Why did you decide to pursue a university education, and in your specific major? What are your life goals/dreams, and how will being a first-gen college student help you achieve them)?

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): In their first videos of the *First Things First* series, incoming first-gen students Leon Masuda and Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera answer the prompt “Why Are You At UCI?” Their faculty mentors Professor Pavan Kadandale and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford respond and discuss how their own experiences as first-gen undergraduates compared or differed.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI’s [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI’s entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: Why Are You At UCI?: Leon Masuda and Professor Pavan Kadandale (https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcjHXyh5ZkV2TS6gCbtfSjpV2Py6CnNs_) (https://bit.ly/31hq8wW_)

- **Video Title:** Why Are You At UCI?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** Freshman Math major Leon Masuda explains why she’s excited to attend UCI as a first-gen, low-income, immigrant student and how it brings her one step closer to her dream of becoming a role model and caring for her family.
- **Video Title:** Why Are You At UCI?: Professor Pavan Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Responding to Leon’s “Why Are You At UCI?” video, Professor Pavan Kadandale shares how much her experiences remind him of his own story and how her hopes and dreams resonate with the wider first-gen community.

Playlist Title: Why Are You At UCI?: Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford

(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcjHXyh5ZkV3At3LeNzsc58X1rzPjdSat>)

(<https://bit.ly/3k6HjIW>)

- **Video Title:** Why Are You At UCI?: Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera
 - **Description:** Freshman Biological Sciences major and first-gen student Gretta Gabriela Ozuna Rivera talks about her desire to help others and how attending UCI allows her to work towards this goal without compromising the values she grew up with.
- **Video Title:** Why Are You At UCI?: Professor Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford responds to Gretta's video and commends her for her commitment to helping others. She also shares what her own focus was when she was attending college as a first-gen student.

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** In this week's First Things First video, I explain why attending college is so important as a first-gen, low-income, immigrant student. I also share my dreams of supporting my family and becoming a role model. Check out my video here: <https://bit.ly/31hg8wW>. #FirstGenUCI
- **Gretta:** In this week's First Things First video, I talk about my dream of helping others and explain how attending UCI as a first-gen student allows me to work towards my goals without compromising my personal values. Check out my video here: <https://bit.ly/3k6HjIW>. #FirstGenUCI

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** Excited to launch the #FirstGenUCI First Things First series! This week, Leon Masuda answers the prompt "Why Are You At UCI?," and her faculty mentor Prof. Pavan Kadandale responds with his similar experiences. Check out their exchange here: <https://bit.ly/31hg8wW>.
- **Gretta & Anita:** We're excited to continue the launch of the #FirstGenUCI First Things First series! In this exchange, Gretta Ozuna answers "Why Are You At UCI?" and her

mentor Prof. Anita Casavantes Bradford shares how her experiences differed slightly:
<https://bit.ly/3k6HjIW>.

WEEK 3 PROMPT: What has been “new” or “different” for you in your first three weeks as a university student?

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): In this week’s *First Things First* video exchanges, first-gen students Leon and Gretta answer the question “What’s Been New or Different for You as a University Student?” Their faculty mentors Prof. Kadandale and Prof. Casavantes Bradford reflect on their own experiences and offer advice.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI’s [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI’s entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.
-

Playlist Title: What’s Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Leon Masuda and Professor Pavan Kadandale

- **Youtube Video Title:** What’s Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** In this week’s *First Things First* video, Leon discusses what it’s like to branch out, live alone for the first time and get her first taste of a college experience. She also talks about the helpful services she’s been leveraging, such as LARC Tutoring (<http://larc.uci.edu/>) and the TRIO Scholars (<http://trio.due.uci.edu/>) peer tutoring program
- **IGTV Video Title:** What’s Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Leon Masuda
 - **IGTV Description:** In this week’s *First Things First* video, @Leon.masuda discusses what it’s like to branch out, live alone for the first time and get her first taste of a college experience at @ucirvine. She also talks about the helpful services she’s been leveraging, such as LARC Tutoring (<http://larc.uci.edu/>) and the @trioscholars_uci (<http://trio.due.uci.edu/>) peer tutoring program.

#firstgenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

- **Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Professor Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Responding to Leon's video, Prof. Kadandale applauds her for being proactive and making use of the many resources that UCI has to offer. He also recalls how it took him a long time to leverage tools and services as an immigrant student because he didn't want to give the wrong impression of himself. He ends by encouraging first-gen students to seek out and explore all the opportunities available at UCI.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Professor Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Responding to @leon.masuda, Prof. Kadandale applauds her for being proactive and making use of the many resources that @ucirvine has to offer. He also recalls how it took him a long time to leverage tools and services as an immigrant student because he didn't want to give the wrong impression of himself. He ends by encouraging first-gen students to seek out and explore all the opportunities available at UCI.
#firstgenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

Playlist Title: What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Gretta Ozuna and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford

- **YouTube Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** In this week's *First Things First* video, Gretta discusses how her idea of learning has changed as a college student. She also talks about how she has embraced independent study and found new ways to "own" the learning process.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** In this week's *First Things First* video, @gre.tt.a discusses how her idea of learning has changed as a college @ucirvine student. She also talks about how she has embraced independent study and found new ways to "own" the learning process.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

- **YouTube Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Professor Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Professor Casavantes Bradford responds to Gretta and commends her for being “intrinsically” motivated when it comes to learning and making the most of her time at UCI. She also encourages Gretta to remember her goals and to draw on support from the UCI community to keep herself going when things get difficult.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What's Been New or Different for You as a University Student?: Professor Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Professor Casavantes Bradford responds to @gre.tt.a and commends her for being “intrinsically” motivated when it comes to learning and making the most of her time at @ucirvine. She also encourages Gretta to remember her goals and to draw on support from the UCI community to keep herself going when things get difficult.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** My First Things First video for this week is all about what's been new for me as a university student. From living alone for the first time to accessing resources like tutoring through LARC and TRIO Scholars, I'm excited to share my updates:
<http://bit.ly/35hCNkr>. #FirstGenUCI
 - Social Handles for posting
 - LARC
 - FB: @UCIrvineLARC
 - Twitter: @uciLARC
 - TRIO Scholars
 - FB: @TrioScholarsProgramUCI
 - IG: @trioscholars_uci
 - Twitter: @trio_uci
- **Gretta:** In this week's First Things First video, I talk about how I've been embracing the idea of independent work as a university student. I also discuss how I've been finding ways to support my academic excellence. Check out my update here:
<http://bit.ly/37uhQWf>. #FirstGenUCI

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** In this week's #FirstGenUCI First Things First exchange, Leon explains what's been new or different for her as a @UCIrvine student. Prof. Kadandale shares his

memories & encourages all students to make the most of UCI resources:

<http://bit.ly/35hCNkr>.

@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

- **Gretta & Anita:** For this week's #FirstGenUCI First Things First exchange, Gretta explains what's been new or different for her as a @UCIrvine student. Prof. Casavantes Bradford responds with praise and advice to help her stay motivated:
<http://bit.ly/37uhQWf>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

WEEK 4 PROMPT: What are you feeling good about so far this quarter? What are you feeling anxious about right now?

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): In this week's *First Things First* updates, Leon and Gretta answer the prompt "What Are You Feeling Good About So Far This Quarter? What Are You Feeling Anxious About?" The students share positives, like adjusting to dorm-life and joining UCI clubs online. They also reveal some of the things they are worried about, such as midterms and dealing with self-doubt. In response, their faculty mentors Prof. Kadandale and Prof. Casavantes Bradford relate their own anxieties and introduce helpful resources.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new "virtual" mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Leon Masuda and Professor Pavan Kadandale

- **Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** In her Week 4 *First Things First* update, Leon shares that she's feeling good about adjusting to dorm life and getting used to her professors'

teaching styles. However, she also reveals the anxiety and self-doubt she feels regarding her upcoming midterms.

- **IGTV Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** In her Week 4 *First Things First* update, @leon.masuda shares that she's feeling good about adjusting to dorm life and getting used to her professors' teaching styles. However, she also reveals the anxiety and self-doubt she feels regarding upcoming @ucirvine midterms.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia
- **Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Responding to the anxieties that Leon shared in her video, Prof. Kadandale shares his own fears of failure. He also commends Leon for her perseverance and encourages others to face their own self-doubts with grit and determination.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Responding to the anxieties that @leon.masuda shared in her video, Prof. Kadandale shares his own fears of failure. He also commends Leon for her perseverance and encourages others at @ucirvine to face their own self-doubts with grit and determination.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

Playlist Title: What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Gretta Ozuna and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford

- **Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** In this week's *First Things First* update, Gretta shares that she's feeling good about joining various UCI clubs and building her community of support. With several midterms under her belt, she also explains that she's nervous about the results of her exams.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** In this week's *First Things First* update, @gre.tt.a shares that she's feeling good about joining various @ucirvine clubs and building her community of support. With several midterms under her belt, she also explains that she's nervous about the results of her exams.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

- **Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Responding to Gretta, Prof. Casavantes Bradford encourages her to check out the Student Life & Leadership website (<https://studentlife.uci.edu/>) to learn about UCI's online clubs and activities. She also shares valuable resources like those available at Student Success Initiatives (<https://ssi.uci.edu/>) and LARC (<http://larc.uci.edu/>).
- **IGTV Video Title:** What Are You Feeling Good About? What Are You Anxious About?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Responding to @gre.tt.a, Prof. Casavantes Bradford encourages her to check out @ucistudentlife (<https://studentlife.uci.edu/>) to learn about @ucirvine online clubs and activities. She also shares valuable resources like those available at @ucirvinessi (<https://ssi.uci.edu/>) and LARC (<http://larc.uci.edu/>).
#firstgenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** This week, I'm feeling good about adjusting to dorm life and getting used to my professors' teaching styles. However, with midterms coming up, I'm also feeling nervous. Wish me luck with my exams and check out my weekly #FirstGenUCI First Things First update: <https://bit.ly/2HB2XqO>.
- **Gretta:** It's Week 4 and I'm feeling good about joining various UCI clubs and finding my communities of support. However, now that I've completed my first midterms, I'm also feeling nervous about my results. Watch my weekly #FirstGenUCI First Things First update: <https://bit.ly/31T5m6Z>.

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** #FirstGenUCI First Things First weekly update: Leon shares what she's feeling good about and what she's anxious about. Prof. Kadandale responds by sharing some of his own anxieties and discussing the power of perseverance: <https://bit.ly/2HB2XqO>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia
- **Gretta & Anita:** #FirstGenUCI First Things First weekly update: Gretta shares what's been good and what's been anxiety-inducing this quarter. Prof. Casavantes-Bradford

responds by introducing @UCIrvine resources like SSI, Student Life & LARC:
<https://bit.ly/31T5m6Z>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia

WEEK 5 PROMPT: Student interviews with faculty

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together):

After three weeks of video messaging, the *First Things First* students finally connect with their faculty mentors in real-time. Together, each student-mentor pair discusses a range of topics, including coming to the U.S. for the first time, making the most of available opportunities, finding communities of support and facing challenges head-on.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: *First Things First* Student Interview With Faculty: Leon and Prof. Kadandale

- **Video Title:** *First Things First* Student Interview With Faculty: Leon and Prof. Kadandale
 - **Description:** This week, Leon and her faculty mentor Prof. Kadandale connect via Zoom. During the call, they swap immigration stories, talk about making the most of your opportunities, and much more.
- **IGTV Video Title:** *First Things First* Student Interview With Faculty: Leon and Prof. Kadandale
 - **Description:** This week, @leon.masuda and her faculty mentor Prof. Kadandale connect via Zoom. During the call, they swap immigration stories, talk about making the most of your opportunities and much more.
#FirstGenUCI @ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Playlist Title: *First Things First* Student Interview With Faculty: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford

- **Video Title:** Student Interview With Faculty: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford
 - **Description:** This week, Gretta and her faculty mentor Prof. Casavantes Bradford meet face-to-face over Zoom. During their call, they talk about confronting challenges, finding communities of support, and staying true to yourself.
- **IGTV Video Title:** *First Things First* Student Interview With Faculty: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford
 - **Description:** This week, @gre.tt.a and her faculty mentor Prof. Casavantes Bradford meet face-to-face over Zoom. During their call, they talk about confronting challenges, finding communities of support, and staying true to yourself.
#FirstGenUCI @ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** Halfway through the quarter, I met with my mentor Prof. Kadandale over Zoom. Together, we swap immigration stories, discuss the importance of asking for help, and much more. Watch our #FirstGenUCI First Things First interview here: <https://bit.ly/3n8oRR5>.
- **Gretta:** This week, I met with my mentor Prof. Casavantes Bradford over Zoom. We discussed what challenges we've been facing, how we've been finding community and how we're expressing ourselves. Watch our #FirstGenUCI First Things First interview here: <https://bit.ly/3kh7Jae>.

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** On this week's #FirstGenUCI First Things First update, Leon and her @UCIrvine mentor Prof. Kadandale meet and talk about coming to the U.S., making the most of available opportunities and much more: <https://bit.ly/3n8oRR5>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Gretta & Anita:** This week, #FirstGenUCI First Things First student Gretta met with her @UCIrvine mentor Prof. Casavantes Bradford to discuss the challenges they've been facing, the importance of authentic expression and much more. Watch their conversation: <https://bit.ly/3kh7Jae>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

WEEK 6 PROMPT: Now that you're through half of your first quarter at UCI, do you feel like you belong here? Do you think you made the right choice coming here? What has made you feel like you "belong?" Has anything made you feel that you don't "fit in" in some way?

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): This week, the *First Things First* students were given the prompt "Now that you're through half of your first quarter at UCI, do you feel like you belong here?" While Leon shares that she feels completely welcome at UCI, Gretta admits that she sometimes feels like she doesn't fit in. Their faculty mentors, Prof. Pavan Kadandale and Prof. Anita Casavantes Bradford, respond by offering encouragement and helpful advice.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new "virtual" mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: Do you feel like you belong here?: Leon Masuda and Professor Pavan Kadandale

- **Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** Leon is happy to explain why she feels like she belongs at UCI. From academic resources and assistance to help from her classmates to support from the first-gen community, Leon identifies some of the things that contribute to UCI's welcoming environment.
- **IGTV Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** This week, @leon.masuda is happy to explain why she feels like she belongs at @ucirvine. From academic resources and assistance to help from her classmates to support from the first-gen community, Leon identifies some of the things that contribute to UCI's welcoming environment.
#FirstGenUCI @ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon

- **Description:** Prof. Kadandale shares his happiness that Leon feels like she belongs at UCI. He also encourages other students to follow Leon's lead and take advantage of all the resources and services available at UCI.
- **IGTV Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Prof. Kadandale shares his happiness that @leon.masuda feels like she belongs at @ucirvine. He also encourages other students to follow Leon's lead and take advantage of all the resources and services available at UCI.
#FirstGenUCI @ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Playlist Title: Do you feel like you belong here?: Gretta Ozuna and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford

- **Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** While Gretta is excited about the many clubs and organizations that make her feel part of a community, she admits there are still times when she feels out of place because she is a low-income, first-gen student. Despite this, Gretta remains positive that she will overcome and make a space for herself at UCI.
- **IGTV Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** While @gre.tt.a is excited about the many clubs and organizations that make her feel part of a community, she admits there are still times when she feels out of place because she is a low-income, first-gen student. Despite this, Gretta remains positive that she will overcome and make a space for herself at @ucirvine.
- **Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Prof. Casavantes Bradford commends Gretta for getting involved with UCI clubs and organizations. She also encourages Gretta by reminding her that being the first in your family to attend college helps pave the way for others.
- **IGTV Video Title:** Do you feel like you belong here?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Prof. Casavantes Bradford commends Gretta for getting involved with @ucirvine clubs and organizations. She also encourages @gre.tt.a by reminding her that being the first in your family to attend college helps pave the way for others.
#FirstGenUCI @ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** I'm happy to report that I truly feel like I belong at UCI. Thanks to the support I've received from campus organizations, my classmates, and the first-gen community, I really feel welcome here. Check out my #FirstGenUCI First Things First update here: <https://bit.ly/35uvreR>.
- **Gretta:** In my #FirstGenUCI First Things First update, I admit that I don't always fit in. As a first-gen, low-income student, it's hard when you don't have a point of reference to look to. However, I know that I will overcome and make a place for myself at UCI: <https://bit.ly/3nkjlem>.

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** #FirstGenUCI First Things First update: Leon explains how the support from campus has made her feel like she belongs at @UCIrvine. Responding, Prof. Kadandale shares his happiness and encourages other students to follow Leon's example: <https://bit.ly/35uvreR>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Gretta & Anita:** #FirstGenUCI update: While Gretta says joining @UCIrvine organizations helps her feel like she belongs, she sometimes feels out of place. Prof. Casavantes Bradford responds by offering encouragement and sharing her confidence in Gretta: <https://bit.ly/3nkjlem>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

WEEK 7 PROMPT: How are you meeting people and making friends at UCI?

How are you meeting people/making friends/engaging at UCI, in these tough times? Are you satisfied with the kinds of interactions you've been able to have with peers, faculty and staff? What do you feel you have missed out on, having started your university education "remotely?"

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): This week, the *First Things First* students answer the prompt: "In these tough times, how are you meeting people and making friends at UCI?" Leon admits that it's been tricky meeting others; however, she managed to make friends by forming study groups and participating in events hosted by her dorm. Gretta shares that participating in the *First Things First* project has helped her feel connected. She also expresses her excitement for when she can actually come to campus and experience college life in-person.

Prof. Pavan Kadandale responds to Leon by sharing his sadness that UCI students aren't having the traditional college experience this year. However, he encourages students to be proactive and creative in finding ways to connect with others. Prof. Anita Casavates Bradford responds to Gretta by expressing her happiness that taking part in First Things First is making a difference during this challenging time. She also emphasizes the importance of finding role models and experiencing mentorship as a first-gen student.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: How are you meeting people and making friends at UCI?: Leon Masuda and Professor Pavan Kadandale

- **Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** Leon explains that it's been tricky meeting people since UCI's been remote. However, she's been able to reach out and form friendships by creating study groups and participating in activities hosted by her dorm in Middle Earth. While she does wish that she was able to start her college experience in-person, Leon also notes that there are benefits to connecting remotely.
- **IGTV Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** This week, @leon.masuda explains that it's been tricky meeting people since @ucirvine went remote. However, she's been able to reach out and form friendships by creating study groups and participating in @ucimiddleearth activities. While she does wish that she was able to start her college experience in-person, Leon also notes that there are benefits to connecting remotely. #FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI? Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Prof. Kadandale shares his sadness that UCI's freshman class will have to wait to have a true, in-person college experience. However, he also encourages students to be creative and take initiative like Leon and find alternative ways to form communities.

- **IGTV Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Prof. Kadandale Responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Prof. Kadandale shares his sadness that @ucirvine's freshman class will have to wait to have a true, in-person college experience. However, he also encourages students to be creative and take initiative like @leon.masuda and find alternative ways to form communities.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Playlist Title: How are you meeting people and making friends at UCI?: Gretta Ozuna and Professor Anita Casavantes Bradford

- **Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** Gretta explains that the mentorship she's received as part of *First Things First* has helped her feel connected at UCI. She also shares how excited she is for when she can finally go to campus and have the traditional college experience.
- **IGTV Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** This week, @gre.tt.a explains that the mentorship she's received as part of #FirstGenUCI *First Things First* has helped her feel connected at @ucirvine. She also shares how excited she is for when she can finally go to campus and have the traditional college experience.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Prof. Casavantes Bradford expresses her happiness that participating in the *First Things First* program has made Gretta feel connected. She also discusses the importance of mentorship, especially for first-gen, minority, and other underrepresented students.
- **IGTV Video Title:** How Are You Meeting People and Making Friends at UCI?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Prof. Casavantes Bradford expresses her happiness that participating in the #FirstGenUCI *First Things First* program has made @gre.tt.a feel connected. She also discusses the importance of mentorship, especially for first-gen, minority, and other underrepresented students.
@ucirvine @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** It's been tough meeting people since UCI has gone remote, but I've been forming friendships by creating study groups and participating in activities hosted by Middle Earth. Check out my full #FirstGenUCI First Things First update here: <https://bit.ly/2Ki5CGN>.
 - **Middle Earth Tags**
 - FB: @ucimiddleearth
 - IG: @ucimiddleearth
 - Twitter: @UCIMiddleEarth
- **Gretta:** Participating in #FirstGenUCI First Things First has helped me feel connected at UCI, but I'm also looking forward to finally going to campus and having the traditional college experience. Check out my weekly update here: <https://bit.ly/3pDNVSk>.

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** #FirstGenUCI First Things First update: Leon explains how she's made friends this year. Prof. Kadandale shares his sadness that @UCIrvine's freshmen haven't had their first real taste of college. Watch their exchange here: <https://bit.ly/2Ki5CGN>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
 - **Gretta & Anita:** Gretta explains that #FirstGenUCI First Things First has helped her feel connected at @UCIrvine. Prof. Casavantes Bradford shares her happiness & emphasizes the importance of mentorship for first-gen success. Watch their exchange: <https://bit.ly/3pDNVSk>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
-

WEEK 9 PROMPT: What university resources have you used during your first quarter? How have they helped you? What other resources do you wish you had, or had used? What advice do you have for next year's first-years, if we are still in lockdown? How would that change if we are back on campus?

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): For Week 9's First Things First update, Leon and Gretta answer the questions: "What UCI resources have you been using?" and "What advice do you have for incoming students?"

Leon discusses how she's gotten help from services like LARC and TRIO Scholars tutoring. She also explains the system she uses for keeping track of assignments and deadlines. Leon's

faculty mentor Prof. Pavan Kadandale seconds her advice and encourages other students to follow Leon's example by being proactive and independent about getting help.

Gretta also talks about how UCI resources like LARC tutoring and consultations from the Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication have been a huge help for her. She advises new students to seek out and use as many campus resources as possible. Prof. Anita Casavantes Bradford also offers advice to help new students stay on top of things in the fast-moving quarter system. She also reminds students to go easy on themselves during such a strange and stressful time.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new "virtual" mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.

Playlist Title: What UCI Resources Have You Been Using? What Advice Do You Have for incoming students?: Leon and Prof. Kadandale

- **Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** For this week's *First Things First* update, Leon shares some of the resources she's been leveraging at UCI, including LARC tutoring, TRIO Scholars tutoring, and office hours for her professors and TAs. If UCI remains remote for next year, Leon advises incoming students to attend as many live lectures as possible and offers strategies for keeping track of assignments and due dates.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Leon Masuda
 - **Description:** For this week's #FirstGenUCI update, @leon.masuda shares some of the resources she's been leveraging at @ucirvine, including @ucilarc tutoring, @trioscholars_uci tutoring, and office hours for her professors and TAs. If UCI remains remote for next year, Leon advises incoming students to attend as many live lectures as possible and offers strategies for keeping track of assignments and due dates.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Prof. Kadandale responds to Leon

- **Description:** Prof. Kadandale agrees with Leon's advice for new students and applauds her proactive use of resources. He also emphasizes the importance of students being independent and seeking out the tools and services that will help them succeed.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Prof. Kadandale responds to Leon
 - **Description:** Prof. Kadandale agrees with Leon's advice for new @ucirvine students and applauds her proactive use of resources. He also emphasizes the importance of students being independent and seeking out the tools and services that will help them succeed.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Playlist Title: What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford

- **Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Gretta
 - **Description:** In Gretta's Week 9 First Things First update, she talks about using UCI resources like LARC tutoring and writing consultations at the Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication. While learning online is difficult, Gretta says her best advice for incoming students is to learn about and leverage every resource available.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Gretta Ozuna
 - **Description:** In her Week 9 First Things First update, @gre.tt.a talks about using @ucirvine resources like @ucilarc tutoring and writing consultations at @uciwrites. While learning online is difficult, Gretta says her best advice for incoming students is to learn about and leverage every resource available.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Building off of the advice Gretta had for incoming students, Prof. Casavantes Bradford offers her best tips for staying organized on UCI's quarter system. She also reminds students to take breaks and be kind to themselves during this stressful time.
- **IGTV Video Title:** What UCI resources have you been using? What advice do you have for incoming students?: Prof. Casavantes Bradford Responds to Gretta
 - **Description:** Building off of the advice @gre.tta had for incoming students, Prof. Casavantes Bradford offers her best tips for staying organized on the @ucirvine

quarter system. She also reminds students to take breaks and be kind to themselves during this stressful time.

#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8g41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** Week 9 #FirstGenUCI First Things First update: I share the UCI resources I've been using, like LARC tutoring, TRIO Scholars tutoring, and office hours. I also offer my best remote learning advice for new students. Watch my update here: <https://bit.ly/3oolahR>.
 - **Tags**
 - **FB:** @UCIrvineLARC @TrioscholarsProgramUCI
 - **IG:** @ucilarc @trioscholars_uci
 - **TW:** @trio_uci

- **Gretta:** In my #FirstGenUCI First Things First update, I talk about using UCI resources like LARC tutoring and consultations at the Writing Center. Because remote learning can be hard, I advise incoming students to use every resource available. Watch my update here: <https://bit.ly/33FgdSW>.
 - **Tags:**
 - **FB:** @UCIrvineLARC @uciwrites
 - **IG:** @ucilarc @uciwrites
 - **TW:** @uciwrites

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** Week 9 #FirstGenUCI update: Leon discusses using @UCIrvine resources like LARC and TRIO Scholars tutoring. She also offers advice for incoming students. Prof Pavan agrees with her advice and applauds her independence. Watch their exchange: <https://bit.ly/3oolahR>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

 - **Gretta & Anita:** Week 9 #FirstGenUCI: Gretta shares that she's used resources like the LARC and @uciwrites and advises students to check out @UCIrvine resources. Prof. Casavantes Bradford also offers students advice for staying organized. Watch: <https://bit.ly/33FgdSW>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
-

WEEK 10 PROMPT: Student interviews with faculty

Website Blurb (all 4 vids together): With Fall Quarter 2020 coming to a close, the *First Things First* students connect with their faculty mentors over Zoom once again. Together, each student-faculty pair reflect on the quarter, discuss how faculty can improve remote teaching, and offer suggestions to help UCI students make the most of online learning.

- **Under Embedded Playlists:** The *First Things First* project is an evolution of UCI's [First-Generation Faculty Initiative](#), designed to help first-gen students overcome the challenges brought about by the pandemic. This new “virtual” mentorship program pairs two incoming UCI first-gen students with first-gen faculty members for a year-long, social-media-distributed conversation about the transition to university life. The goal of *First Things First* is to help UCI's entire first-gen population, as well as first-gen students throughout higher education, build a sense of community—even in this remote college environment. To further this project, we invite you to share this article on your social media channels and with your network.
- **Video Title:** Student Interview with Faculty: Leon and Prof. Kadandale
 - **Description:** In their Week 10 Zoom meeting, Leon and Prof. Kadandale discuss a range of topics including the difference between high school and UCI and tips for improving study methods. They also reflect on their experience with the *First Things First* project and end the call by giving students advice on making the most of the remote learning environment moving forward.
- **IGTV Video Title:** Student Interview with Faculty: Leon and Prof. Kadandale
 - **Description:** In their Week 10 Zoom meeting, @leon.masuda and Prof. Kadandale discuss a range of topics including the difference between high school and @ucirvine, tips for improving study methods, and even their favorite foods. They also reflect on their experience with the *First Things First* project and end the call by giving students advice on making the most of the remote learning environment moving forward.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Video Title:** Student Interview with Faculty: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford
 - **Description:** In her Week 10 call with Prof. Casavantes Bradford, Gretta reflects on her first quarter at UCI. Together, they also get real when talking about the intensity and challenges of the quarter system. Gretta also flips the switch and offers her best suggestions to help faculty improve their courses and be better mentors to students.

- **IGTV Video Title:** Student Interview with Faculty: Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford
 - **Description :** In her Week 10 call with Prof. Casavantes Bradford, @gretta reflects on her first quarter at @ucirvine. Together, they also get real when talking about the intensity and challenges of the quarter system. Gretta also flips the switch and offers her best suggestions to help faculty improve their courses and be better mentors to students.
#FirstGenUCI @ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci

Student Social Copy

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11j3gsH1c4Msp5iouo3W-wmKePxX8q41nJgzYhh5qUX0/edit?usp=sharing>)

- **Leon:** During our Week 10 #FirstGenUCI First Things First call, Prof. Kadandale and I reflect on my first quarter at UCI and talk about everything from study strategies to my advice for UCI faculty. Wrap up Fall Quarter and watch our discussion here: <https://bit.ly/3oWdvRd>.
-
- **Gretta:** To wrap up this quarter of #FirstGenUCI First Things First, Prof. Casavantes Bradford and I hopped on a Zoom to talk about the challenges of the quarter system, what faculty can do to improve remote teaching, and much more. Watch our exchange here: <https://bit.ly/3gR3zpp>.

OVPTL & Dennin Social Copy

- **Leon & Pavan:** To finish out Fall Quarter of #FirstGenUCI First Things First, Leon and Prof. Kadandale connected via Zoom to look back over the quarter and offer their best advice to other UCI students. Watch their discussion here: <https://bit.ly/3oWdvRd>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci
- **Gretta & Anita:** For Week 10, Gretta and Prof. Casavantes Bradford met over Zoom to reflect on their first quarter of #FirstGenUCI First Things First. They talk about finals, how faculty can improve remote teaching, and much more. Watch their call here: <https://bit.ly/3gR3zpp>.
@ucifirstgen @uofcalifornia @ucisocsci