

Ask & Connect in Practice

Vignettes About the Student Experience

Activities aim

These activities are intended to help you start thinking about how to put the principles of Ask-Connect into practice on your campus by a) reflecting on the story of an individual student and b) reimagining your college's existing student supports.

Each vignette is divided into two parts. The first part contains a description of a scenario that has caused a student to stop out from courses or the college, from both the student's and the college's perspectives. The second part contains a description of an alternative scenario in which critical supports were in place that made a difference in the student's experience. The scenarios in these vignettes are based on the experiences of real students.

Learning outcomes

1. Evaluate current student support offered by your college to understand barriers the college is creating to student success.
2. Consider how Ask-Connect strategies can help your college reimagine its current student supports.

Student vignettes

1. Meet Brandon, a student entering community college from high school, unsure of his goals.
2. Meet Malachi, a queer Black man in the IT program hoping to transfer to a four-year institution for computer science, now struggling to make his credits transfer.
3. Meet Teline, a single mom with ADHD in the laboratory tech program struggling with finances and her in-class performance.
4. Meet Angel, a first-generation Filipina American dual enrollment high school student hoping to get a bachelor's in marine biology, struggling with feelings of isolation on her community college campus.
5. Meet Mary, a single parent and veteran interested in obtaining a four-year degree using her GI benefits, struggling to find her place on campus as a veteran and needing support with childcare.

The goal of these vignettes is to capture the experiences of several different types of students at community colleges. Feel free to modify the vignettes to align with the experiences of students at your college. We encourage you to write your own vignette as well to capture a student experience on your campus not included in our examples above.