The second year of the University of Michigan Center for Education Design, Evaluation, and Research’s (CEDER) evaluation of the Kessler Scholars Collaborative focused on understanding student outcomes and informing program development.

The Kessler Scholars Program model provides holistic, wraparound supports for first-generation and limited-income students throughout their four-year college experience. The Kessler Scholars Collaborative is a network that facilitates organizational learning across partner institutions. In the 2021-22 academic year, six institutions participated in the collaborative, with a total of 381 participating Scholars.
The Kessler Scholars Collaborative has identified six core areas of student development that inform programming. The goal is that when students graduate from college and the Kessler Scholars Program, they have developed competencies across these six program areas:

**OUTCOME ONE**
**College Navigation & Academic Skill Development**

76% of participating Scholars reported that the first-year seminar gave them the skills they can apply in further years of study.

“I feel more connected within the university. Connected with people I know, and I also am more familiar with different resources that I could access.”

- CORNELL UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

**OUTCOME TWO**
**Wellness and Social Emotional Development**

82% of Scholars reported that the program encouraged them to develop a healthy lifestyle.

“It has helped us look after our own wellness because we would have a lot of time management workshops. Kessler staff would always tell us to prioritize mental health.”

- QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

**OUTCOME THREE**
**Self-Awareness and Identity Development**

78% of Scholars reported that the program helped facilitate their self-exploration and personal development.

“It taught me to embrace my first-generation identity more...[we] should be proud that [we] made it this far and Kessler really focused on that.”

- SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

**OUTCOME FOUR**
**Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility**

85% of Scholars reported that the program helped them develop a greater understanding of cultural and social diversity.

“We would talk about current events, like Black Lives Matter and climate change. I feel like it really allowed us to express our feelings and talk about how we feel.”

- QUEENS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

**OUTCOME FIVE**
**Leadership Development**

93% of peer mentors agreed that their role provided them with valuable leadership experience.

“[As a peer mentor,] you really felt like you were taking care of the future, the future McGuire Scholars. I valued that leadership position.”

- ST. FRANCIS COLLEGE SCHOLAR

**OUTCOME SIX**
**Career and Professional Development**

81% of Scholars reported that the program facilitated their academic and career planning.

“I would not have thought to think ahead past my first-year. Going to college, there is a lot to take in, so having an extra advisor making sure I am on the right track was super wonderful.”

- UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOLAR
Program Development

The CEDER team worked closely with the six partner institutions throughout the 2021-22 academic year to ensure that evaluation findings were responsive, useful, and directly informed programming.

01 Opportunities to Bond with Other Scholars

Students at several institutions expressed a desire for more social events or other opportunities to build community with other Kessler Scholars.

“The one change I would make would be having more options for community service opportunities and more scheduled get togethers with all cohorts.”

02 Expanded Mentoring Programming

Students valued the peer mentoring program and provided ideas for expanded mentoring opportunities.

“I am a peer mentor, and I have freshman mentees. But I still sometimes want somebody, like a junior, as my mentor. So, it’s like the cycle repeats...you teach the other person what they need to know for the next year.”

03 Career Development Workshops

Students shared ideas for expanded career development workshop topics, especially on career development topics.

“More workshops geared towards upperclassmen students, possibly job interview prep, would be very helpful.”