FIRST GENERATION tells the story of four high school students—an inner city athlete, a small town waitress, a Samoan warrior dancer, and the daughter of migrant field workers—who set out to break the cycle of poverty and bring hope to their families and communities by pursuing a college education.

Shot over the course of three years and featuring some of our nation's top educational experts, this 95-minute documentary explores the problem of college access faced by first generation and low-income students and how their success has major implications for the future of our nation.

Cynthia Bejarano, a native of Southern New Mexico and the El-Paso/Juárez border, is an associate professor of criminal justice at New Mexico State University and principal investigator of NMSU CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program). She will lead the discussion along with a student from CAMP. Her publications and research interests focus on border violence, immigration issues, and gender violence at the U.S.-Mexico border. She is the author of the book Qué Onda? Urban Youth Cultures and Border Identity, published by the University of Arizona Press in 2005 and the co-editor of an interdisciplinary anthology with Rosa-Linda Fregoso entitled Terrorizing Women: A Cartography of Feminicide in the Américas (Duke University Press, June 2010).

Registration is required at teaching.nmsu.edu. If you have problems registering online, call 646-2204 for help.