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First-Generation Symposium

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Two Generations of First-Gen Stories: What Has Changed and What Has Not

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Rowan University

Two Generations of First-Gen Stories: What Has Changed and What Has Not

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Learning Objectives

1. To identify **work, education, support systems** and **cultural values** as they pertain to first-generation individuals.
2. To identify **common themes** among our stories.
3. To discuss ways we can **support** each other.

Disclaimer:

This presentation is not intended for the audience to view us as victims of our upbringing. We are simply telling our stories with the hope to highlight commonalities among first generation individuals.



POLL TIME

What is the first word or phrase that comes to mind when you hear “first generation”?

Difference in first-gen terms:

First-gen College Student

- A student whose parent(s)/legal guardian(s) have not completed a **bachelor's degree**
- First in the family to attend a **four-year college/university**

First-gen American

- An immigrant who was **born in another country** and has become a citizen or permanent resident in a **new country**
- Can also refer to the child of such an immigrant

TOMMY'S STORY (GEN Z)



Born in Kwangju, South Korea



My mom and my aunt!



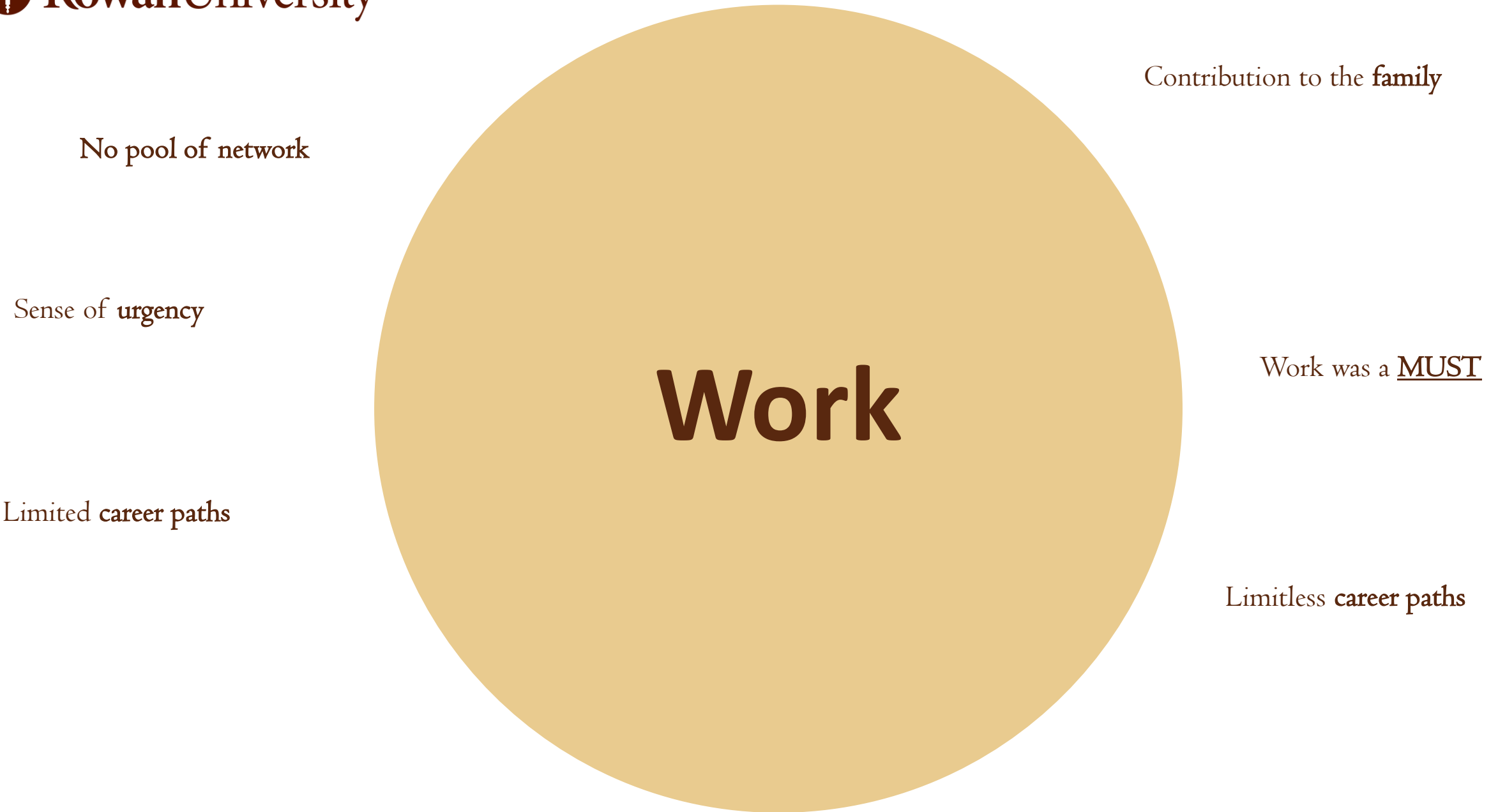
Trinitas Medical Mentorship Program

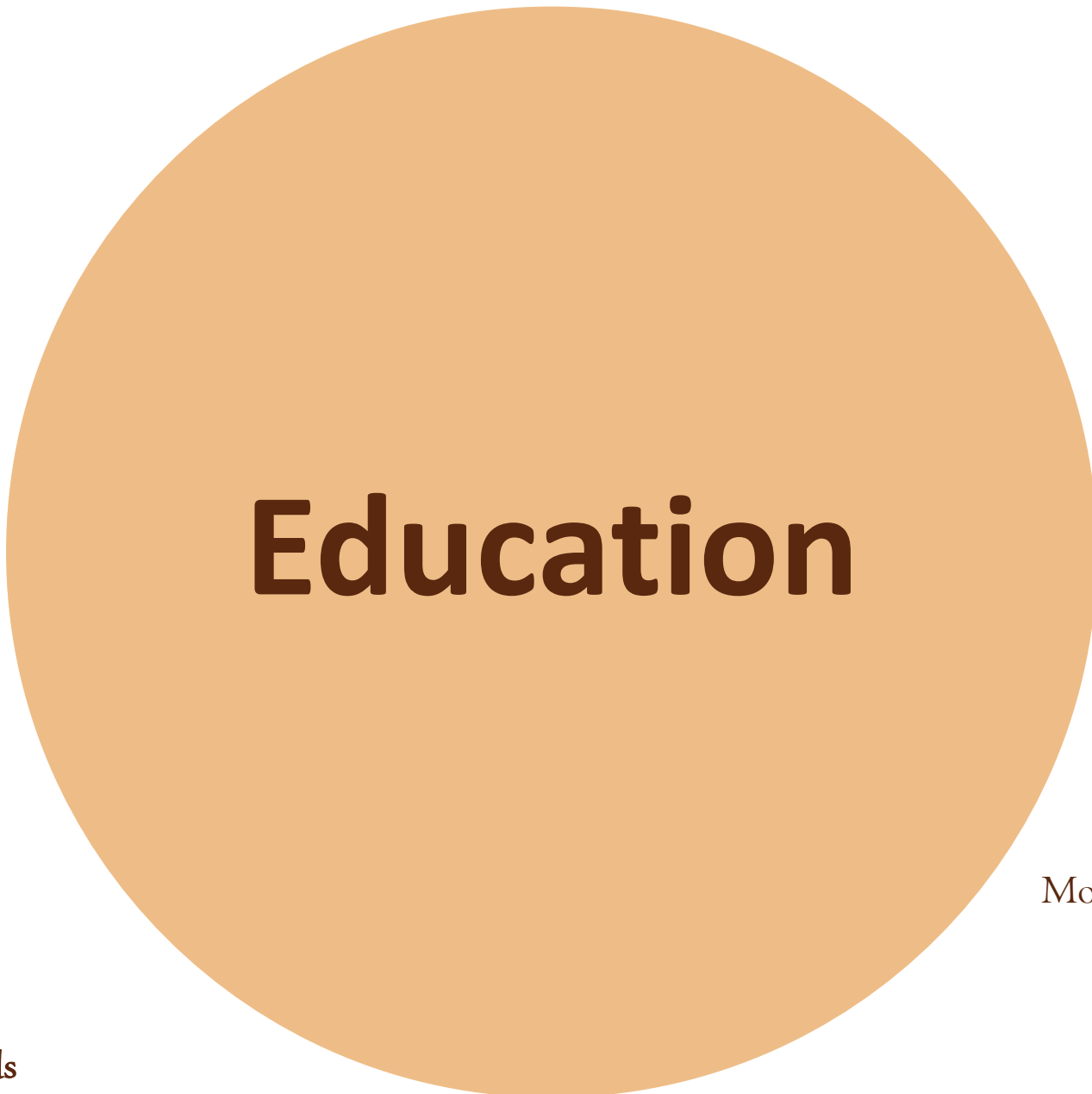
ROSARIA'S STORY (MILLENNIAL)





*Perspectives: work, education, support
and cultural values*





Women \neq Education

Lack of knowledge

More **limited** career choices

Career choices depended on **work schedule**

Good school district

No idea **how to navigate**

Decisions driven by **financial needs**

Lack of **resources**

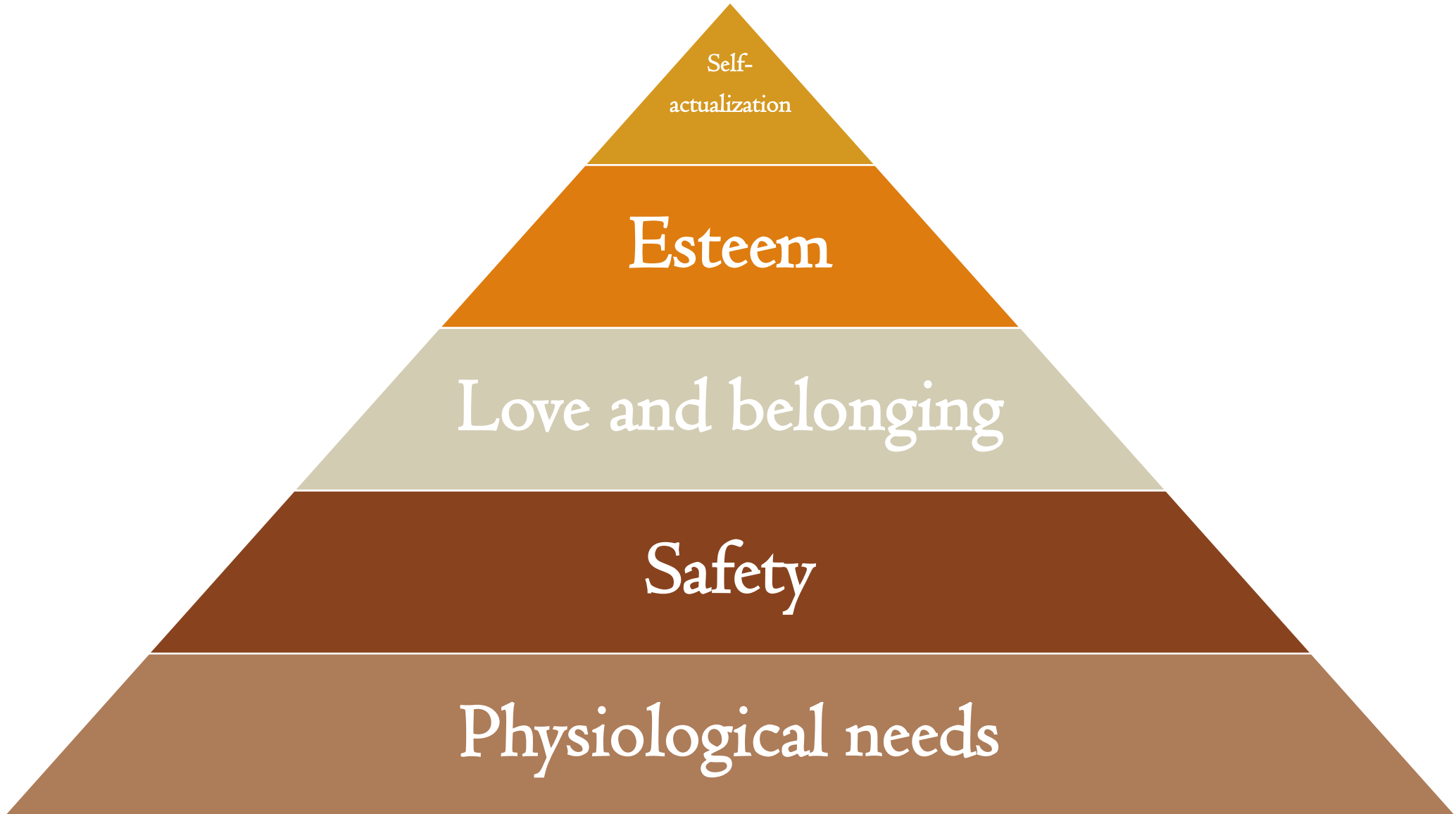
Lessened sense of
security/stability

Independent from young age

Support

Heavily relied on **friends**
and **professional staff**

No one in family
had **career ambitions**



Family is always #1

Sacrifice is second nature

Strong work ethic

Strong career ambitions:
parents' retirement plan

Success = financial stability

Cultural Values

Degree = \$\$\$

Barrier between other
Italian women in family

Success = financial stability

Different definitions of **success**



DISCUSSION

Q: How has your perspective on first-gen students expanded, if at all?

Q: How do you think you can provide additional support for first-gen students?