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# Georgia Southern to celebrate first-generation college graduates Nov. 2-8

November 3, 2021



Georgia Southern University will celebrate the accomplishments of faculty, staff, students and alumni who are among the first to graduate in their families during National First-Generation Celebration week Nov. 2-8.

There is a slate of events planned to celebrate the accomplishments of first-generation students and graduates in the campus community including a True Blue Table Talk, networking reception and resource fair, and community service events.

“It is imperative we attentively listen to and thoroughly understand the barriers first-gen students face so that we may better align institution resources and support offerings to meet their needs,” said Corine Ackerson-Jones, TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) director.

The True Blue Table Talk is a panel discussion with a first-gen faculty member, staff member and a student about being first-gen, resources available to support first-gen students at Georgia Southern and outlining what the University can do to better support first-gen this community of students. The talk, facilitated by Ackerson-Jones, will be streamed via Facebook Live on the [University’s Facebook page](#) on Thursday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m. and will feature McNair Scholars

Program Director Isaac Taylor, College of Education Senior Lecturer Janel Smith, Ed.D., and sophomore political science and international studies major Jazmine Roberts.

Nov. 8 is National First-Generation College Student Day and marks the 56th anniversary of the signing of the 1965 Higher Education Act, which helped millions of disadvantaged students become the first members of their families to earn college degrees. To recognize the day, Georgia Southern's TRIO Student Support Services on the Armstrong and Liberty campuses, Student Support Services Statesboro Campus and the Alumni Association will host a First-Gen Networking Reception and Resource Fair on Monday, Nov. 8, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Russell Union Ballroom on the Statesboro Campus, and in the Student Union lobby on the Armstrong Campus. Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend. Those who purchased a "First-Gen Celebration" T-shirt are encouraged to wear them.

For more information on First-Gen Week at Georgia Southern, and for additional event information including Rep Your Alma Mater Day and community service events, click [here](#). Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to join the conversation on social media by using #CelebrateFirstGen and #FirstGenEagles.

Georgia Southern's TRIO SSS program is a U.S. Department of Education program and is 100% supported in federal funds. It comprises outreach and student success initiatives designed to identify and provide services for students who are first-generation, low-income or persons with disabilities. The SSS program on the Statesboro Campus follows some of the same initiatives but is not a U.S. Department of Education TRIO program. Leslie Harris serves as the Statesboro Campus program. To learn more about both programs, [click here](#).

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