

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of economic mobility, and the decision to pursue postsecondary education plays a vital role in both the success of Washington residents and the competitiveness of our state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, Washington prioritizes better futures for all people through postsecondary education with the Washington College Grant, the best-in-the-nation financial assistance program for college and apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, students who are first generation are hard-working, committed young people working to achieve economic mobility and an education; and

WHEREAS, first-generation college students, which are those whose parents or guardians did not complete a four-year degree, break down generational barriers to create opportunities for their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration to recognize the achievements of first-generation college students and graduates nationwide; and

WHEREAS, First-Generation College Celebration occurs annually on November 8th to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased access to higher education for low-income and first-generation college students;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2025, as

First-Generation College Celebration Day

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in celebrating the contributions of the first-generation community and learning about the programs our community organizations, colleges and employers have created to drive their success.



Signed this 4th day of November, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson