



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

November 8, 2025

Greetings:

It is my pleasure to join with the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward to recognize November 8, 2025, as First-Generation College Celebration Day.

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. This celebration occurs annually on November 8 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.

First-generation college students—those whose parents or guardians did not complete a four-year degree—break down generational barriers to create opportunity for their families and communities. Pennsylvania is home to the ninth largest population of such students in the United States with 53 percent of its undergraduates being first-generation college students. Education is the cornerstone of economic mobility, and the decision to pursue post-secondary education plays a vital role in both the competitiveness of our Commonwealth's workforce and in ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed and chart their own course.

As Governor, I am happy to recognize November 8, 2025, as First-Generation College Celebration Day. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this eighth day of November two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred fiftieth.

Governor Josh Shapiro