

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Center for First-generation Student Success launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration to recognize the achievements of first-generation college students and graduates nationwide; and

WHEREAS, first-generation college students - those whose parents did not complete a four-year degree - help break down generational barriers and open doors for their current and future family members; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is home to a large population of such students, with 50 percent of its undergraduates being first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of individual opportunity, and the decision to pursue post-secondary education after high school graduation plays a vital role in the future success of our young people and the competitiveness of our state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, First-Generation College Celebration Day occurs every year on or around November 8 to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased access to high education for low-income and first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina has invested heavily in need-based grants and tuition freezes to increase accessibility and affordability in higher education for all South Carolinians; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry Dargan McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2025, as

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to join in celebrating the contributions of the first-generation community and learning about the programs our community organizations, colleges, and employers offer.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry D. McMaster", is written over a white background.

**HENRY DARGAN McMMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**