

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration commemorating the passing of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased access to higher education for low-income and first-generation students and celebrates the achievements of first-generation college students, faculty, staff, alumni, and professionals nationwide; 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 our state; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of higher education is a significant milestone that empowers individuals to achieve their dreams and contribute to the advancement of our workforce; 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, First-Generation College Celebration Day occurs every year on or around November 8 to acknowledge and elevate first-generation college student and alumni identities and contributions; 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, 2026, 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".

HENRY DARGAN MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA