



The State University
of New York

University Life and Student Affairs

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: SUNY Campuses

FROM: Cheryl Hamilton, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Opportunity Programs, and Student Advocate

DATE: November 5, 2025

RE: Celebrating First Generation Month: History, Importance, and Upcoming National Webinar

The tradition of celebrating the first-generation college student community culminates annually on **November 8th, National First-Generation College Celebration Day**. This date holds deep significance: it marks the anniversary of the signing of the **Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965**. SUNY is committed to fostering success and expanding opportunities to all students, including those who are first generation.

To help celebrate First Generation Month, we are encouraging campuses to recognize the resilience and unique perspectives of this group of students by hosting first-generation college student celebrations at their respective campuses.

Additionally, SUNY will host two panels tailored for our first-generation community, and are inviting campuses to participate in a webinar hosted by FirstGen Forward:

Financial Literacy Workshop

Monday, November 10th at 12pm

Join this interactive conversation designed to engage faculty, staff, and administrators in exploring effective ways to help first-generation students navigate financial concerns. Together, we'll share real experiences, uncover common challenges, and identify best practices and resources that empower students to thrive.

Registration Link: <https://suny-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/BEV3nkrdRgiyB2mDF2pgOQ>

First Gen Forward and NACADA Community Conversation

Tuesday, November 18th at 1pm

Open to faculty, staff and administrators. In this Community Conversation, panelists will share how their lived experiences have shaped their professional journeys, informed their approaches to advising and leadership, and inspired systemic change within their institutions. The discussion will highlight ways supervisors, colleagues, and leaders can recognize, celebrate, and build upon the strengths of first-generation professionals across



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Registration Link: https://firstgenforward-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/x1jAeHXOQjix_DRUNPwFig

First-Generation Doctoral Student Panel

Monday, November 24th at 12pm

Open to students, faculty, staff and/or administrators. This inspiring panel will feature first-generation doctoral students who will share their unique experiences.

Registration Link: https://suny-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BR5Ctgv_Raa9WKtKFAoaTA