



Introduced By: Senator Gumerov
Sponsored By: Senator Dichaira
Contact: sga_ecs4@ucf.edu
First Reading: November 5th, 2024;
Committee Action: Passed 8-0-1
Second Reading: November 7th, 2024;
Final Vote: Passed 34-0-1

**University of Central Florida
Fifty-Sixth Student Body
Senate Proclamation 56-22**

[Proclamation Recognizing November 8th, 2024, as National First-Generation College Celebration Day]

WHEREAS, Senate Rule 2.04(G)(1) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee shall pass measures advocating on behalf of the student body regarding student and university affairs at the University of Central Florida (UCF);
WHEREAS, Senate Rule 5.01(D)(1) states that Proclamations are defined as measures recognizing, celebrating, or condemning extraordinary events, organizations, or individuals on behalf of all Student Government Agents;
WHEREAS, National First-Generation College Celebration Day (FGCC), observed annually on November 8, honors the resilience, determination, and achievements of first-generation college students;
WHEREAS, National First-Generation College Celebration Day was founded in 2017 by the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in partnership with NASPA's Center for First-Generation Student Success;
WHEREAS, FGCC is celebrated annually on November 8th to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965;
WHEREAS, The HEA was landmark legislation that expanded access to higher education for underrepresented groups, including low-income individuals and those whose parents did not attend college;
WHEREAS, It also established federal financial aid programs like Pell Grants and TRiO programs;
WHEREAS, TRiO education programs are federally funded initiatives in the U.S. designed to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds through scholarships, counseling, academic tutoring and others;
WHEREAS, Pell grants are a federally funded financial aid program designed to assist students on a needed based pay for college tuition;
WHEREAS, Raising awareness about these struggles through National First-Generation Day helps bring attention to the need for targeted support systems;
WHEREAS, This year marks the 60th anniversary of the TRiO Programs;
WHEREAS, Currently more than 20% of UCF's student population are first-generation college students;
WHEREAS, With a multitude of resources such as, TRiO, the McNair Scholars Program and the First-Generation Program, UCF empowers underserved students to succeed through access, mentoring and scholarships;
WHEREAS, UCF's own President, President Cartwright, is a first-generation student and puts forth an astounding effort to help these students achieve;
WHEREAS, We must recognize that first-gen students go through unique barriers such as financial hardship, lack of guidance, extreme pressure, expectations and others;
WHEREAS, It is important to shine a spotlight on the unique challenges faced by first-generation students and recognize the transformative impact of higher education for them, their families, and their communities; and
WHEREAS, In honor of this celebration, UCF TRiO has teamed up with First Gen through the Ginsburg Center for Inclusion and Community to host a multitude of events for First-Generation Student Awareness Week Nov. 4th-8th.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Fifty-Sixth Student Senate of the University of Central Florida proclaims the celebration of National First-Generation College Celebration Day on November 8th, 2024, and supports the events being hosted during the week, in hopes to champion First-Generation student success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Proclamation be sent to TRiO Programs Director Deborah Bowie, Senior Vice President for Student Success Paul Dosal, , Director of Academic Support Services Angelia Jones Smith, Director of Academic Support Services Dr. Deborah Bradford, Vice President for Access and Community Engagement Dr. Andrea I. Guzman, First-Generation Program, Senior Vice President for Advancement & Partnerships and Chief Executive Officer for UCF Foundation, Inc. Rodney M. Grabowski, FirstGen Knights, First Generation Medicine, and UCF President Cartwright.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

Handwritten signature of Allison Pohlmann in black ink.

Allison Pohlmann
Senate President
11/13/2024
Date

Handwritten signature of Bryce Lister in black ink.

Bryce Lister
Student Body President
11/14/2024
Date