



**EMPOWERING  
FIRST-GEN,  
ONE STUDENT  
AT A TIME.**



November 4, 2025

# **First-Generation Recognition Ceremony**

*University of South Carolina  
Capstone Campus Room*



## Welcome

Dr. LaNaé Budden, First-Generation Center Director

## Remarks by Provost

Provost Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## First-Gen Student Advisory Board Executive Board Recognition

Melissa Kupfer, First-Generation Center Assistant Director

## First-Gen Student Advisory Board Reflection

Shalaia Myers, First-Gen Student Advisory Board (SAB) President

## Special Presentation

Craig Parks, Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy

## Presentation of First-Gen Awards

Provost Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Lara Lomicka Anderson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs  
and Dean of Undergraduate Studies

## Hors d'oeuvres

## Student Reflections

Mya Lewis, Sophomore Nursing Major  
Brandon Jamison, Junior Pharmaceutical Science Major

## Introduction of Speaker

Parth Dave, First-Gen Student Advisory Board (SAB) Vice President

## Alumna Reflections

Dr. Hope Rivers, President of Piedmont Technical College

## Closing Remarks

Althea Counts, Executive Director TRIO Programs



# First-Gen Award Nominees

## ***Undergraduate Students***

Genevieve Nicole Brown  
AllanDave Cabanayan  
Deston Cedillo  
Lenyx Coviak  
Aryana Hughey  
Sydney Morris  
Shalaia Myers  
Hayley Oliver  
Valentina Robinson  
Trinity Singleton  
Torrance Squire  
Matthew Thorpe  
Jennifer Torres-Trejo  
Kamaya Whitaker

## ***Graduate Students***

Zachery Burzee  
Savannah Jackson  
Madysen Murphy  
Omid Oshriyeh  
Christine Powell-Thomas  
Cara Vandergriff  
Keandra Warren  
Jacob Watson  
Savannah Woods  
Melisa Yang

## ***Faculty Advocates***

Scott Farrand  
Dr. Haley Hatfield  
Dr. George Roy

## ***Staff Advocates***

Carrie Austin  
Shannon Blake-Lynch  
Kelly DeShazo  
Tharangi Fernando  
Scott Kaplan  
Rachel Onley  
Curtis Pernell  
Cierra Pinckney  
Dr. Silvia Patricia Rios Husain  
Sonya Singleton  
Dianne Wade  
Paulia Williams

## ***Alumni***

Dr. Brandon Baskett  
Darquette Davis  
Curtis Pernell

***A special thank you to this evening's student musicians:***

Dax Andrews and Nima Kolmohammadi



***Thank you for joining us!***

You can continue to follow the first-gen student experience at USC by connecting with us at our official website and on our social media accounts.

Visit **[sc.edu/firstgen](http://sc.edu/firstgen)** for more information.

