



**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
Madyson 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
Darquetta 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** for more information.

