

FIRST- GENERATION DRAGONS



Meet: Grace Gomula, First-
Generation College Student

Hometown: Farmington
Hills, MI

Advice for first-generation
students: Remember why
you started this journey!

Campus Involvement:
BLUSH, CAB, and Women's
Basketball

Motivation to go to college:
To live comfortably.

Biggest collegiate
accomplishment thus far:
Maintaining a 4.0 GPA

did you know...

First-Generation Dragons
raised \$1,100 to scholarship
an incoming first-gen first-year
student for next fall

Meet: Dr. Erin Dean, first-generation college student, Professor of Counseling and Psychology, Assistant Dean, and the Department Chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences for the School of Criminal Justice and Social Sciences.

Hometown: Kent, OH

Advice for first-generation students: I would advise incoming students to find a professor that they really connect with and with whom they feel comfortable. Make time to talk with them about personal, academic, and career goals and ask them about their own path to their career. I would also advise them to have fun and get involved but more importantly, make one or two good friends they can talk to and count on. Lastly, I would advise them to take advantage of the resources available to them: tutoring, writing assistance, the library, advising, counseling, student engagement events/activities, etc.

Campus Involvement: When I was an undergrad student, I was a commuter student, so I wasn't involved in much outside of academics. I was part of the honor's college and I was a research assistant for two different psychology professors. Those experiences inspired me and prepared me well for grad school.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation to go to college was multifaceted. My Mom motivated me to go to college because she told me I could do anything I wanted to do and she always supported my goals (perhaps even pushed me). I was also motivated to go to college because I could not do what I wanted to do (help people either medically or psychologically) without going to college. I was also motivated to go to college so that I could learn and grow and meet new people. I was a bit of a geek, I suppose, in that I always liked school and learning, and I wasn't ready for that to end when I graduated from high school. Lastly, I was motivated to go to college because I believed that getting an education would eventually lead to me being able to financially support myself. I watched my Mom struggle when she and my Dad divorced, and I was determined to never be in that same position (and my Mom pushed me because she never wanted me to be in her position either).

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: In my undergrad, being selected as psychology student of the year, completing a senior honor's thesis, and presenting at a national conference were my biggest academic accomplishments. In grad school, completing my dissertation/Ph. D. and publishing articles with mentors and fellow students were my biggest collegiate accomplishments in my journey.



Meet: Patience Doeing, First-Generation College Student

Hometown: Fairport Harbor, OH

Advice for first-generation students: College is hard; find your people and connections early on. Don't be afraid to make friends or reach out to people in times of need. College is a hard transition and having people in your corner makes it easier.



Campus Involvement: BLUSH, National Honor Society of Leadership and Success, Concert Production, Backstage for Theater, First-Gen Dragons, and Pride.

Motivation to go to college: I have always loved school and honestly there has never been any other idea besides going to college after high school.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: During high school I took college classes at Lake Erie College where I was able to experiment with different courses as well as get almost all of my prerequisites done before coming to Tiffin University. Due to the fact that LEC is a private school and TU is a private school all of my credits were able to transfer over and, because of this, I am graduating college a year early.

Meet: Kylie Schindler, First-Generation College Student

Hometown: Tiffin, OH

Advice for first-generation college students: Research everything about college, and if you need help figuring out financial aid then ASK!!



Campus Involvement: I am not involved in any activities. This is because I have to work full time to help pay for college therefore, I don't have a lot of spare time.

Motivation to go to college; Neither of my parents or grandparents have finished college. My dad is currently going back to college but my mom ended up dropping out. I wanted to be one of the first in my family to go to college AND graduate. Both my sister and I go to TU so it was easy to have that helping hand and get motivated to go to TU especially since it is so close by to where I live. I was motivated simply by the fact that I wanted to graduate college.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: Making the dean's list!