

FIRST- GENERATION DRAGONS



Meet: Dr. Julia Porter, First-Generation College Student, Project Manager for CCU, and PhD Program Coordinator

Hometown: Greenwood, Indiana

Advice for first-generation students: Don't be afraid to ask questions. It can be hard when you're the first and many of you may be paving the way for siblings as well. Everything is new and some of the things you encounter can be confusing, so don't be afraid to seek out the answers and get the support you need. There are people here to help you who want you to succeed.

Campus Involvement: In school, I was consistently involved in music and writing activities on campus. Getting involved is so important to meet others like you!

Motivation to go to college: My parents were my motivation. I knew that it was important to get a degree to have a stable career to provide for myself. I saw how hard my parents worked to provide for us and I knew the importance of hard work. When I started college, I knew I wanted to work in education to support other students like myself and to do that, I would need at minimum a bachelor's degree. I never in my wildest dreams imagined I'd be the first in my family to earn a Master's and a PhD, but with support from professors and colleagues, I became motivated to continue my education.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: I never sugar coat it. I was an average student in high school and college was hard. Every earned A was an accomplishment. When I defended my dissertation successfully, I cried because I never believed I would have made it that far.

You're Invited

Join us for National
First-Generation
College Student
Day in Osceola
Theater on 11/8
at 12:30 pm

Meet: Autumn Cooper, First-Generation College Student and Assistant Branch Manager at Peoples Bank In Madeira, Ohio

Hometown: New Lenox, Illinois

Advice for first-generation students: Some advice I would offer incoming first-generation college students is to speak up in your classes. These lead to mentors which lead to further internship/networking opportunities. All it takes is some courage to ask questions in your classroom, and spend time with your professors by seeking career advice from them.

Campus Involvement: When I was a student I was heavily involved on campus. I was an RA, Peer Mentor, I was the president of American Marketing Association and I was also involved on the dance team and in choir.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation to go to college was to make my parents proud for the opportunities they never had.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: My biggest collegiate accomplishment was receiving the Provost Award at Commencement Ceremony! This made the college journey and all of the hard work around it pay off.



Meet: Kyle Johnson, First-Generation College Student and Senior Information Security Consultant at FireEye.

Hometown: Elkhart, Indiana

Advice for first-generation students: Once you pick a career path, conduct extra research on your own outside of the classroom to gain an even deeper understanding of the industry. You will be more prepared and well-equipped to enter the workforce.

Campus Involvement: I was an athlete on the tennis team all 4 years. I also volunteered with various groups during my time on campus.

Motivation to go to college: My biggest motivations to go to college were 2 things. I wanted to have a great professional career, and I wanted to be a college athlete.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment in college was being named an ITA All-Academic Scholar-Athlete.





Meet: Pedro Correa III, First-Generation College Student and ChampionX - Field Operations Manager

Hometown: Deerfield Beach, Florida

Advice for first-generation students: Learn to manage your time, FAST! Also, study!

Campus Involvement: Football from start to finish. Also was an RA (resident assistant) during my junior year. In addition, I worked as the front receptionist at the Heminger Center from Sophomore-Senior year (Coach Ray is the man). Made great relationships with workers at "the cafe", the faculty on-campus and the community.

Motivation to go to college: Football. That was my life!

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: Made the Dean's List for my outstanding grades. All while spending over 40 hours a week for my football endeavors. Some don't realize playing a sport in college is basically a full-time job.

