

# FIRST-GENERATION DRAGONS

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Name: Akeem Needum, first-generation college student and TU alumnus, and current Operations Manager at Lululemon Distribution Center

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: One piece of advice I would give to the first-generation college students would be to always take advantage of the opportunities and interactions that come your way. Not everyone gets the opportunity to obtain a higher education so take advantage of it, and all the opportunity it brings. Also don't be afraid of new challenges embrace them. Your individual experiences and what you make of them are priceless.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation to get a college education was to have access to all the opportunities that come with a college degree. I have seen first and second hand what doors can open by having a college education. One thing that was always conveyed to me is that no one can take away your education or life experiences. That rings true to this current day.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: I have a few: First, would be obtaining my Undergraduate degree and MBA Second would be the amazing friendships and relationships I've made through football program and the university.

Activities: Varsity Football and Student Athletic Advisory Committee





Name: Matthew McCune, First-Generation College Student and TU Graduate Student

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: When coming into college, it's okay to not know what direction you're taking! I'm completing a second masters degree because of new and exciting career aspirations! Don't sweat it, you'll get there eventually.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation to go to college was to give back to my community. I'm a seventh grade history teacher and education has defined all of the ups and downs in my life. I want to be the educator that I always dreamed of having myself.

Biggest Collegiate Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment is graduating with two degrees and coming back for a third! Along with my accomplishments, the opportunity to work and study alongside some of the best peers in the country brightens every day.

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Name: Roney McIntyre Jr, First-Generation College Student and Graduate Student, Operator at Swerage and Waterboard of New Orleans



Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: In time, you will get over the feelings and emotions that go along with experiencing family and close friends not caring about your educational journey as much as you think they should. At that point, understand that you've elevated in wisdom and maturity and use that energy to excel even higher.

Motivation to go to college: To have better employment opportunities and advanced skills to meet the requirements for promotions on the job.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: Persevering and completing the task of graduating.

Activities: As an undergraduate, I was an active member of the Fraternal Order of Police. As a current graduate student, I am actively seeking a community organization I can apply my skills and expertise to.



Name: Kristy Travis, First-Generation College Student and First-Year at TU

Hometown: Mansfield, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Don't let anyone tell you "You can't" because you can.

Motivation to go to college: I wanted to be better than my past.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: I've made a lot of new friends and I think that's the biggest accomplishment.

Activities: Colorguard, Nu Delta Sigma, and First-Gen Dragons

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A First-Generation College Student is any student whose parents did not go to college. This definition includes students whose parents maybe started college and did not ever finish and students whose parents did not go to college but older siblings did. If this definition aligns with your collegiate identity, please consider scanning the QR code so we can feature your story in our newsletter!! We are seeking features from students, faculty, staff, and alumni!

