

FIRST-GENERATION DRAGONS

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Name: Latrice Ponder, first-generation college student and TU alumna

Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: The advice that I would give to first-generation college students is take your time, stay focused, and be proud of yourself. Your family is already proud of you. Be gentle on yourself and you will be the best project that you work on.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation to go back to college was to move up in my career in HR. I also wanted a higher salary.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: My proudest moment is being the first, the youngest, and the only person to obtain a bachelor's degree and now a master's degree in my family. I currently hold a 4.0 at Tiffin University.

Activities: Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated



Name: MeAira Mcinnis, First-Generation College Student and senior at TU



Hometown: Cleveland, OH

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Find your own groove. What works for others may not work for you!

Motivation to go to college: My granddad constantly got on me about going to college. "Be the first in our family to get a degree," is something he said to me every phone call. I'm also the oldest of three, and I want my sisters to know anything is possible

Biggest Collegiate Accomplishment: My biggest accomplishment this far is just knowing that with everything going on in my life I don't give up. I'm going to get my degree no matter what life throws at me.

Activities: I work at a daycare outside of my school work and classes.

Name: Steven Mintz, First-Generation College Student and TU alumnus



Hometown: Atlanta, GA

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: If your goal is to accomplish something that no one in your family has, make sure you don't let anything come in between that. Stay focus.

Motivation to go to college: I wanted to be an example not only for my family but for my environment to show everyone who looks like me or shared a similar life as me that we aren't limited to anything. We can accomplish everything despite what the world tells us.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: I have two. Making the deans list and earning a ring as collegiate track and field athlete from the 2019 Great Midwest mens outdoor track and field championship.

Activities: Rugby and Track & Field



Name: Zach Lowe, First-Generation College Student and PhD student at TU

Hometown: Cortland, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: To purposefully build your network of individuals who will continue to challenge, support, and push you throughout your college years and beyond.

Motivation to go to college: To develop the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in a career so I could support my family and give back to my local community.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: I graduated Summa Cum Laude with my Bachelor's degree in 2014 from the University of Akron and obtained my Master's degree in 2017 from the University of South Carolina. And I've recently completed all of my coursework for my Ph.D. here at Tiffin!

Activities: In undergrad, I was in marching band and various clubs and activities.

If you are the first in your family to go to college (your parents nor guardians did not graduate with a four-year degree), scan the QR code or visit:

<https://forms.gle/7FHceiaAjgx8BggW8> to be featured in our newsletter!

If you would like to personally reach out to anyone featured in this issue, they are CC'd on the e-mail.

