

FIRST-GENERATION DRAGONS

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Name: Lydia Clayton, first-generation college student and TU grad student

Hometown: Twinsburg, OH

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Rely on your family or support system for what they are able to provide support for. However, utilize campus supports as much as possible for college related things. This will eliminate feelings of inadequacy or helplessness. Although some of our support people are resourceful, they may not have the answers or help that we need for college-specific problems. Also, don't be afraid to communicate barriers that you may be facing. They are there to help and support you.

Motivation to go to college: My motivation was to bring pride to my family, especially being a teen mom. I wanted to be able to provide a good life for my son and wanted to reduce the amount of struggles that I faced. I also wanted to prove doubters wrong who made me feel like my life was over when I became pregnant at a young age.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: My biggest collegiate accomplishment is graduating with my master's degree within 1 year, while working full-time and being a single parent.

Activities: I am involved in my son's sports activities primarily. I am also in the process of becoming a mentor for first generation college students with a collaboration between CollegeNow and Young Latino Network.



Name: Brooke Cortez, First-Generation College Student and fourth-year at TU



Hometown: Lima, OH

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Work hard!

Motivation to go to college: Better job opportunities

Biggest Collegiate Accomplishment: Graduating a year early.

Activities: Alpha Iota Business Sorority

Name: Nadia Kidan, First-Generation College Student and third-year at TU



Hometown: Tiffin, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Stay organized!

Motivation to go to college: I wanted to have purpose in life and my job someday.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: Making the dean's list

Activities: Alpha Iota

Name: Brandon Bounkham, First-Generation College Student and third-year at TU

Hometown: Columbus, Ohio

Advice for incoming first-generation college students: Be patient!

Motivation to go to college: To accomplish something greater despite my background.

Biggest collegiate accomplishment: Pledging Theta Eta Omicron

Activities: Executive Board of Greek Organization Theta Eta Omicron



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.

