



Center for
Academic
Learning Support

February 2026

F1RST
Program

First-Gen Newsletter

What is the First-Gen Newsletter?

The First-Gen Newsletter is released monthly during each semester and provides updates and information on the first-gen student community to students, faculty, staff, and families.

Howdy Aggies!

Welcome back Aggies! Hopefully you had a spectacular winter break and are excited to start another amazing semester. To the new Aggies - welcome to the family!

This semester will provide more exciting opportunities to engage with the first-gen community. The Coffee Connections series will continue this semester, bringing new opportunities to network and learn from campus leaders. Students can also look forward to a special graduation celebration and continued opportunities offered through the F1RST Learning Community courses.

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Once an Aggie, Always an Aggie!

On page two, learn more about the Fall 2025 First-Gen Graduation Celebration





First-Generation Graduation Celebration

To honor fall 2025 first-generation graduates, the F1RST Program hosted a First-Generation Graduation Celebration in December. This gathering, held between the two commencement ceremonies, provided graduates and their families with the opportunity to celebrate their journeys as first-generation students. Cupcakes, a photo booth, and a thank you note appreciation station were provided. First-generation graduates also received a special stole and pin to honor their achievements.





First-Gen Spotlight: Maya Wright

My name is Maya Wright, and I am pursuing a degree in Coastal Environmental Science and Society (CESS) with a minor in Maritime Environmental Law and Policy (MELP).

I am currently a sophomore at TAMUG and have plans to achieve my master's degree as well as a career in environmental planning. My research has focused on subjects such as flood mitigation, water quality, socioeconomic data, and the implementation of green infrastructure into our communities.

The F1RST Program has been a safe and informative space for students like me who were overwhelmed by university life. The information provided by the program has made me knowledgeable about the opportunities and resources offered to TAMUG students.

Why I Love Being First-Gen!

While a university can sometimes be extremely overwhelming and confusing for a first-gen student, the satisfaction and accomplishments make every sacrifice worth it.

Being a first-gen student requires patience, perseverance, and the ability to build your own path. For that, I think first-generation students possess some of the strongest mindsets out there, and I am proud to be a part of this community!

Community Involvement

I have dedicated myself to working in the Office of Financial Aid as a financial aid advising assistant. The position has taught me a lot about how financial aid works and has given me the opportunity to understand and help countless students.

I have recently been accepted into the Institute for Disaster Relief Texas (IDRT) undergraduate research program here at TAMUG, where I will be connecting with graduate researchers and scientists to formulate my own research questions for a future thesis.



Want to be a First-Gen Spotlight?

Students interested in being featured may submit a few short paragraphs about themselves, their achievements at TAMUG, and what being a first-generation student means to them.

If interested, submit photos and a bio to:
firstgen@tamug.edu



Coffee Connections

The February 2026 session of Coffee Connections welcomed Dr. Rebecca Ottman as the featured guest. Dr. Ottman is an Assistant Professor of English for the Maritime Studies department and Chair of the Common Reader Program.

Coffee Connections is a monthly event series, this semester held on the first Thursday of each month from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m. in the library fishbowl, which invites a special guest to meet with students over a cup of coffee. These sessions foster connection and discussion in a relaxed and engaging environment. All are welcome!

Exploring Leadership on Campus

Students in the F1RST Year 1 class had the special opportunity to meet with campus staff and student organization leaders during the Getting Involved on Campus Roundtable event. This speed-networking event held in class provided students with the opportunity to connect with guests in small groups and learn more about how to become involved on campus.

This special opportunity featured guests from Student Activities, Campus Living and Learning, and more while helping students to connect to the Aggie community within their first year.

Contact Us

“First-Generation” refers to students who are the first in their families to attend college, meaning that neither parent has completed a bachelor’s degree. The Center for Academic Learning Support provides year-round support services to first-gen students, including professional and peer coaching, academic and social events, lounge spaces, and more. Support provided by the CALS office is open to any student located in Galveston. Students wishing to learn more or connect with the first-gen community are encouraged to reach out.

Website:
www.tamug.edu/first

Email:
firstgen@tamug.edu

Phone:
(409) 741-4343

Instagram:
[@tamug1rstgen](https://www.instagram.com/tamug1rstgen)