Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Council for Opportunity in Education and FirstGen Forward launched the inaugural First-Generation College Celebration to recognize the achievements of first-generation college students and graduates nationwide; and

WHEREAS, first-generation college students—those whose parents or guardians did not complete a four-year degree—break down generational barriers to create opportunities for their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Alabama is home to the second largest percentage of such individuals in the United States—with 64 percent of its undergraduates being first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, education is the cornerstone of economic mobility, and the decision to pursue post-secondary education plays a vital role in both the success of our young people and the competitiveness of our state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, the First-Generation College Celebration occurs annually on November 8 to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which increased access to higher education for low-income and first-generation college students; and

WHEREAS, all citizens are called upon to celebrate the contributions of the first-generation community and learn about the programs our community organizations, colleges and employers have created to drive their success:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kay Ivey, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim November 8, 2026, as

First-Generation College Celebration Day

in the state of Alabama

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF ALABAMA

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 27th day of October 2026.

Kay Ivey

Kay Ivey, Governor