



November 8, 2024

Dear Friends,

Today our University joins other colleges and universities across the country in celebrating first-generation students during the National First-Generation College Celebration. This year's annual celebration falls on the 59th anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which effectively increased access to higher education for millions of Americans.

First-Gen Royals make up over 26% of the undergraduate population at Scranton! Today's celebration recognizes the successes and contributions of first-gen students, faculty, staff, and alumni. And I am grateful for our THR1VE program, created in 2019, for their good work in organizing our campus celebration.

Please take time to stop by the DeNaples Center Patio from 10 a.m. – Noon and again from 3 – 5 p.m. to join in the festivities. Students are invited to participate in activities and may receive a limited-edition shirt! Faculty and staff who identify as the first in their families to earn a college degree can pick up a THR1VE pin, mingle with students, and share their experiences as first-gen students and graduates through social media with the hashtag #FirstGenRoyal.

Since our earliest days as St. Thomas College, an important part of our mission has been and will continue to be educating those who are the first in their family to earn a college degree. This great accomplishment is a transformative experience for all students, but for those who are the first in their families to go to college, earning a degree can be life-changing for not only students, but their entire family as well. As a first-gen college graduate myself, I can say this with confidence!

Please join us as we celebrate the contributions of our first-generation students to our campus community.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph G. Marina, S.J.
President