

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1188

TITLE: Resolution Advocating for Funding Events Promoting Networking and Social/Professional Development for University of Florida First-Generation Students

AUTHOR(S): Informations and Communications Chairman Monish Vijayaraghavan, Senator Damian Rodriguez, Senator Ashley Delvalle, Majority Party Leader Julia Seifer

SPONSOR(S):

WHEREAS, the University of Florida is committed to fostering a supportive environment where all students, including those who are first-generation, can thrive academically, socially, and professionally; and

WHEREAS, first-generation college students are defined as students whose parent(s) did not complete a four-year college or university degree in the United States of America [1]. Nationally, around 20% of all incoming first year students at four-year American universities are the first in their families to attend college [2], and thus fall under the category of first-generation students; and

WHEREAS, first-generation students may face unique challenges in navigating the university environment, specifically in terms of psychological, academic, financial, and social challenges [3]. So, first-generation students may benefit greatly from opportunities to connect with peers who share similar experiences; and

WHEREAS, networking events provide valuable opportunities for students to develop social and professional bonds, exchange ideas, and access resources that contribute to their academic and personal success; and

WHEREAS, various scholarship programs like the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholarship (MFOS), alongside student organizations such as First Generation Organization, First Generation Leadership Program (FGLP), and First Generation Leadership Academy at the University of Florida serve the diverse needs and interests of first-generation students, offering avenues for support, mentorship, and community engagement [4]; and

WHEREAS, organizing events that bring together first-generation students from different scholarship programs and student organizations can enhance collaboration, facilitate conversation, and strengthen the sense of belonging within the university community; and

