

# TFCSS Newsletter

*From the Taylor Family Center for Student Success*

November 2024



## HIGHLIGHT

### Happy First Gen Week! November 4 - 8

It's our time to shine.

The First-Generation College Celebration (FGCC) is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of the first-generation college student identity by advancing an asset-based, national narrative of these students' experiences and outcomes. The celebration is meant to commemorate the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The first celebration was held November 8, 2017 ([FirstGen FORWARD](#), 2024).

The entire WashU community is invited to celebrate First-Generation Week, November 4-8! This week is dedicated to building community, providing support, and raising awareness for our first-generation students. We have a variety of activities planned throughout the week. We hope you will join us!

Although not required, registration is strongly encouraged:

[Staff & Faculty RSVP](#)

## Mini Message



### **Dr. Jennifer Alanis, Executive Director of the TFCSS**

Growing up on the South Side of Chicago and in a rural farming community, I faced unique challenges as a first-generation college student.

My mom and I shared the incredible experience of starting college together, navigating higher education while on a limited income, and both earning our doctorates just a year apart. Our journey wasn't easy, but it was filled with determination and pride.

First Generation Week is a celebration of students like me—those who are breaking barriers and paving the way for future generations. It's a time to uplift, encourage, and show everyone that

being a first-gen student is something to be immensely proud of.

We're proof that, no matter where you come from, perseverance and hard work can help you achieve your dreams.

[Click here to learn more about about Dr. Jenny Alanis](#)

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## Save the Date - November 20



**The  
Credit  
Crash  
Course**

**Being  
Economically  
Aware &  
Responsible  
Students**

**Nov. 20th | Ursa's Fireside**  
*5:00pm Snacks Provided*

What makes up your credit score? How can you establish credit for the first time? How does your credit score affect your ability to take out a loan or lease an apartment?

This workshop will answer all these questions and more! You'll learn strategies for successfully managing your credit, and we'll share tips to help you avoid common credit mistakes.

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### TFCSS Featured Events in November

- Check out the [TFCSS website](#) for the full list of November events.
  - Bring your TFCSS punch card to every event to be entered to win a prize before winter break!
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NOV  
1 & 2

## TFCSS BEARS Family Dinner

5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### **Offsite Location**

For Taylor Family Center students who do not have family in town for Parent & Family Weekend, please join WashU students and staff for dinner for either November 1 **OR** November 2 for a delicious dinner from one (or more) of 17 local restaurants in the City Foundry STL's Food Hall.

FREE gift cards and transportation to the Foundry included for students who have signed up.

NOV  
02

## Parent and Family Weekend BBQ

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### **Simon Hall Parking Lot**

Today is the last day to pick up your ticket for the Family Barbecue! Stop by the TFCSS suite (DUC, Rm. 330) by 5 pm today!

NOV  
4 - 8

## Celebrate National First Generation Week, Nov. 4-8

Various days of the week!

### **Various Locations**

Nov. 4 [First Generation Week Kick-Off Reception](#)

Nov. 5 [Party at the Polls \(in partnership with the Gephardt Institute\)](#)

Nov. 6 [Pause, Relax & Reflect \(in partnership with the Office for Religious, Spiritual & Ethical Life\)](#)

Nov. 7 [Career Fireside Chat \(in partnership with the Center for Career Engagement and Department of African & African American Studies\)](#)

Nov. 8 [National First-Generation College Celebration Day](#)

Nov  
27

## TFCSS Gratitude Lunch

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **Holmes Lounge**

Join your fellow Taylor Family Center for Student Success students and staff for a Gratitude Lunch on **Wednesday, November 27 from 12PM – 1PM in Holmes Lounge**, located between Eads and Ridgley Halls.

Traditional Fall favorites will be provided as well as a vegan option in a buffet style lunch.

Additional accommodations may be available – please complete the [RSVP](#) to include any allergies and/or dietary restrictions, and we will do our best to work with our caterer to meet your needs.

## St. Louis Fellows Program Application is open October 14 - December 6

Open to first-year students, sophomores, and juniors, students who are selected will spend Summer 2025 immersing themselves in St. Louis, by working full-time nonprofit or civic internships, attending a range of community events, and engaging in an experiential curriculum to understand St. Louis' history, culture, politics, challenges, and opportunities.

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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## Student Spotlight



*Taking in the sights off the coast of Portugal during his Study Abroad semester in Denmark.*

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

## Kalid Mohammed, class of 2024

"My favorite part of being in the TFCSS is seeing all of the students in the Taylor STARS program that walk in and talking with them," says Kalid, a Biology Major in the Neuroscience track and Anthropology minor.

A Taylor STAR and TRIO scholar, Kalid was an Aspirational Peer Mentor and part of Lock and Chain his sophomore year, and studied abroad in Denmark his junior year.

In his final senior semester, you can find him at the front desk of the TFCSS, checking students in, assisting with programs and events, and updating the program calendar.

Kalid's bright smile and enthusiasm is infectious, and he brings his hospitality to more than just the TFCSS suite. He volunteers at the playroom and the Center for Families at St. Louis Children's Hospital, and is a citizenship tutor at the International Institute of St. Louis.

Kalid is also a part of Medicine & Society (MedSoc), a four-year program which focuses on how health intersects with culture, and is an Undergraduate Research Assistant in the Jackrel lab, planning and executing experiments and writing papers on research he is involved in.

The Georgia transplant is excited to graduate this December and pursue a career in healthcare. We wish you all the best, Kalid!

Congratulations!

Would you like to be featured in the Student Spotlight? We want to share your story! Email [hopem@wustl.edu](mailto:hopem@wustl.edu) to be featured in a future newsletter, on the TFCSS Instagram, and on our [website](#).

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## QUICK HITS

### **After Hours TFCSS Suite Access (6PM - 10PM)**

Need to use the TFCSS Suite after 6 p.m.? Fill out the [After Hours Access Request Form](#) and we will update your card access. Please allow up to one week for changes to take effect.

### **Library Closures beginning Nov. 27**

John M. Olin Library, Kenneth and Nancy Kranzberg Art & Architecture Library in The Kemper, Al and Ruth Kopolow (Business) Library in Simon Hall, East Asian Library in January Hall, Gaylord Music Library, and the Brown School Library **are all closed Thursday, November 28 – Saturday, November 30.**

The libraries that are normally open later in the evening also close early on **Wednesday, November 27: Olin and Kranzberg close at 5, and Brown School closes at noon.**

**Olin, Kranzberg and Brown School return to normal hours on Sunday, December 1.**

[Becker Medical Library](#) and the [Law Library](#) will operate according to their own plans at this time

## The Food Security Fund

In 2023, the Food Security Fund continues to be available to support WashU undergraduate students facing financial hardship, thanks to the unwavering commitment of Dining Services and the invaluable contributions of our students. The application to apply for the Food Security Fund opens November 1; access the portal [here](#).

### Have you considered meeting with a Dietician?

On October 25, Registered Dietician Nutritionist Peyton Dixon, MS, RDN, LD, visited the TFCSS at End of Week Unwind to talk about how he works with students in one-on-one consultations regarding their individualized nutrition and dietary needs. You can email Peyton at [dixonp@wustl.edu](mailto:dixonp@wustl.edu) to set up a free consultation!



**TAYLOR**  
**STARS**

Taylor STARS

Through our comprehensive four-year transitional program, we empower students with transformative learning experiences designed to enrich their academic journey and foster a resilient growth mindset.

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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### Featured Event

On November 9, the Taylor STARS invite First-year students to City Museum! The bus will depart from the DUC at 12:30 P.M and will return by 4 p.m. Check your email for more information on this fun social outing!



## TRIO Student Support Services

The TRIO program provides support to undergraduate scholars that identify as first-generation, limited-income, and/or have a learning or physical disability. The program aims to introduce students to an array of high-impact experiences that aid in their holistic success and help them to maximize their full potential. These include: helping students to connect with mentors, strengthening social and professional network, exploring purpose-driven internships, developing financial literacy, and more!

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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### Featured Events

T.H.R.I.V.E with TRIO occur on Wednesdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in DUC 234.



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Kessler Scholars



# KESSLER SCHOLARS

The Kessler Scholars Program at Washington University in St. Louis is part of the national [Kessler Scholars Collaborative](#), along with 15 other institutions. Together, these schools are transforming the undergraduate experience for first-generation college students. Students who join the Kessler Scholars Program are part of a powerful network of first-generation leaders connected across multiple institutions throughout their undergraduate college experience and beyond.

[See Our Website for More →](#)

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## [Featured Event](#)

Kessler Study Hall will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 6 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in DUC 239.

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## TFCSS Instagram

Follow us!



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Taylor Family Center for Student Success

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