

FOCUS

A Newsletter for First-Generation Students at TSU

615-963-4969

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Sessi Aboh, Ph.D.
saboh@tnstate.edu

THE YOU FIRST PROJECT

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTOR

A First-Generation student is a student whose biological parents did not earn a four-year college degree. The You First Project was established in October 2020 to help First-Generation students graduate on time with a clearer understanding of their post-graduate options and/or career options. As a First-Generation student, you will work with a First-Generation Specialist who will guide you to (re)discover your strengths and help you answer some existential questions such as: What are my values and passions? How do I relate my values and passion to my purpose, my major, my idea of success, my career, and to my desired life after college?

FOCUS-A Newsletter for First-Generation Students at TSU is a monthly publication that will showcase information about our events and your achievements. We are excited about the opportunity to serve you. We hope you will join us on this exciting endeavor!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

What: *The Need to Know: Career & Graduate School Edition*

When: *Tuesday February 9, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m. (Done)*

Friday February 12, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. (Done) Friday February 26, 2021 @ 12:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/8217420236>

Meeting ID: **821 742 0236**

Why: *Discuss Career & Graduate school preparation.*

What: *Career Dream Board Session*

When: *Friday February 12, 2021 (Done)* **Where:** *Zoom*

Meeting ID: **782 741 9510**

Why: *The career dream board allows students to identify career goals and to begin to think of action steps/their plan for the attainment of those goals.*



What: *Residence Hall Tour*

When: *February 2-5, 2021(Done)*

Where: *Virtually*

Why: *First-generation specialists will meet virtually with on-campus students and lay a foundation for a safe, productive, and welcoming relationship.*



OUR TEAM

<https://ashanti-chunn.youcanbook.me/>
(achunn@tnstate.edu)

The Journey to 120 Hours: Preparing First-Generation Students for Success in Health Sciences and STEM activity is focused on supporting first-generation Health Sciences and STEM students to obtain their degrees and to develop the elements needed to experience their best lives. First-Generation Specialists will help students learn more about themselves, actualize their potential, and realize their academic possibilities.



Ashanti Chunn, Ed.D.

<https://aevans40.youcanbook.me>
(aevans40@tnstate.edu)

Completion and Beyond assists first-generation juniors and senior complete their degree at TSU. It also includes “The Life After Series” which involves events and activities that prepare first-gen students for a productive life after college. If you would like to be involved with this series, add to the topics to be addressed, or would like to know more about this initiative, please email Dr. Anika A. Evans at aevans40@tnstate.edu.



Anika A. Evans, Ed.D.

<https://mcphee.youcanbook.me/>
(smcphee@tnstate.edu)

Facilitating Access to the Other Careers in which Blacks are Underrepresented is designed to address the needs of first-generation students enrolled in liberal arts majors by enhancing their sense of belonging, academic success/campus engagement as well as assist students with early exposure to a variety of career options. This activity focuses on timely graduation through credit completion and major/career articulation exercises. We hope that the students in this program will seek to join relevant careers in which Blacks, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are underrepresented.



Seneca McPhee, M.A.

Featured First-Generation Specialists

Donald Perkins, M.Ed.

<https://donaldperkins.youcanbook.me/>

(dperki12@tnstate.edu)

Brandon P. Haskins, Ed.D.

<https://bhaskins.youcanbook.me/>

(bhaskins@tnstate.edu)

Robert Buggs, MBA

https://rbuggs.youcanbook.me

(rbuggs@tnstate.edu)

Learn Your College Lingo

The Bursar Office

is responsible for the assessment and collection of student tuition and fees. The Bursar Office is also responsible for the disbursement of excess financial aid, disbursement and collection of Perkins, institutional loans, billing of third-party payments, and the collection and recording of departmental deposits.

(<https://www.tnstate.edu/bursar/>)

VS

The Financial Aid Office

administers federal, state, institutional and private sources of aid in accordance with federal and state laws. The mission of the Financial Aid Office is to inform students and parents about the various types of financial assistance available and assist them in securing the necessary financial resources to reach their educational aspirations.

(https://www.tnstate.edu/financial_aid/)

<https://www.tnstate.edu>