

First In Flight NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

FALL SEMESTER



Welcome Back for the Fall Semester!

SOAR INTO A NEW SEMESTER WITH FIRST IN FLIGHT

We're excited to support your academic, personal, and professional success. Whether you're just getting started or continuing your journey, First-in-Flight is here to help you navigate college with confidence.

■ WHAT IS FIRST IN FLIGHT?



First in Flight is Wake Tech's support program designed to empower first-generation college students

through mentorship, academic support, leadership development, campus engagement, and access to valuable resources. Our goal is to ensure that students feel connected, supported, and equipped to achieve their educational and career goals.



■ WHO IS A FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT AT WAKE TECH?

You are considered a first-generation student if you are:



The first person in their immediate family to attend college.



A student whose parent(s) have not earned a bachelor's degree.



An international student, regardless of whether their parent(s) have earned a college degree..

First-generation students bring unique strengths, perspectives, and resilience to the college experience, and we are proud to celebrate and support their success.

First In Flight MEET YOUR PEER MENTORS

Our Peer Mentors are experienced student leaders who have successfully navigated college and are committed to helping fellow students thrive. They provide guidance, encouragement, and connection while helping students become familiar with campus resources, opportunities, and strategies for academic success.

As a First in Flight student, you are invited to connect with one of our Peer Mentors for support throughout the semester. Peer Mentors can assist you in navigating your first-generation college experience, answering questions, sharing insights, and helping you feel more connected to the Wake Tech community.



Want to get connected with a Peer Mentor?
Click [here](#) or Scan QR Code.

“Our peer mentors are excited to support you and help you make the most of your Wake Tech journey!”

ADVICE FROM YOUR MENTORS

**SANAI
MCCOY**

➤ “Write down your goal, get a planner, and keep track of your deadlines and schedule.”

**LAURA
ORELLANA-MACHUCA**

➤ “Take things one step at a time. Ask for help, use your resources, and give yourself grace.”

**DESTINY
ROYSTER**

➤ “Value your self-care. Just like a car can’t drive without gas, you can’t perform at your best without taking care of yourself first.”

**JOSE
BELTRAN**

➤ “It’s okay to ask for help, and you should never feel embarrassed about reaching out to your mentor, professors, or other resources on campus.”

**EASHAL
X AHSAN**

➤ “Take things one step at a time and don’t be afraid to ask for help. You don’t have to figure everything out on your own.”

**NATALIA
REYES**

➤ “Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Take things one step at a time, and don’t feel like you have to figure everything out all at once.”

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COORDINATOR

Welcome back, First in Flight Scholars!

As we begin a new semester, I encourage each of you to embrace the opportunities ahead with confidence and determination. Being a first-generation student means you are paving the way for yourself and often for future generations of your family. While the college journey can present challenges, remember that you are not alone. The First in Flight community, our peer mentors, faculty, staff, and mentors are here to support you every step of the way.

This semester, challenge yourself to stay engaged,

build meaningful connections, seek support when needed, and celebrate your accomplishments along the way. Whether you participate in events, connect with a peer mentor, or join the Champions Mentorship Program, we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities available to help you thrive. We look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish this semester. Continue believing in yourself, supporting one another, and pursuing your goals with confidence.

Wishing you a successful and rewarding semester!



RICHARD REDDING
Coordinator of Pathways
Success Scholars
Mentorship Program

JOIN US
NOVEMBER
2ND - 6TH

- ▶ Champions Mentorship Program
- ▶ First-Gen Student Success Workshops
- ▶ Leadership Development Opportunities
- ▶ Campus Engagement Events
- ▶ Career Readiness Programming

FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE CELEBRATION WEEK



“Being the first in your family to attend college is an extraordinary achievement. Every step you take opens doors for future generations.”

STAY CONNECTED

► INSTAGRAM

instagram.com
/wtccpathways

► LINKTREE

linktr.ee
/wtccpathways

► FACEBOOK

facebook.com
/wtccpathways

Follow First in
Flight on social
media for
program
updates, student
spotlights, event
information,
scholarship
opportunities,
and success tips.

Interested in
being featured?



SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CLICK [HERE](#) TO
SUBMIT YOUR FORM!



pathways.waketech.edu

SHARE A PIECE OF YOUR JOURNEY!

FIRST-GEN SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT:

Share Your Story:

We want to celebrate
YOU! The First-Gen
Spotlight highlights
the journeys,
achievements, and
voices of our amazing
first generation
students.

FIRST-GEN ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Share Your Story:

We're looking for first-
generation Wake Tech
alumni to share their
journey from college to
career! Your story can
inspire current students
and celebrate the
impact of the first-gen
community.

