

Assembly Resolution No. 1582

BY: M. of A. Rules (Cashman)

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 8, 2026, as First-Generation College Graduate Day in the State of New York

WHEREAS, A "first-generation college student" means an individual whose parents did not complete a baccalaureate degree, or in the case of any individual who regularly resided with and received support from only one parent, an individual whose parent did not complete a baccalaureate degree; and

WHEREAS, November 8th honors the anniversary of the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson on November 8, 1965; and

WHEREAS, First-generation college graduates represent a vital component of New York State's workforce and civic life, contributing to economic growth, innovation, public service, education, healthcare, and community leadership; and

WHEREAS, New York State is home to a diverse population of first-generation college graduates educated through the State University of New York, the City University of New York, independent colleges and universities, and other accredited institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, The success of first-generation college graduates strengthens families and communities, expands intergenerational opportunity, and serves as a powerful example to future students that higher education is attainable, regardless of background; and

WHEREAS, First-generation college graduates often play a critical role in advancing educational equity by returning to their communities as mentors, educators, professionals, and advocates for access to higher education; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing First-Generation College Graduate Day provides an opportunity to honor perseverance, resilience, and academic achievement while reaffirming New York State's commitment to expanding access, affordability, and student success in higher education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim November 8, 2026, as First-Generation College Graduate Day in the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, and to such other entities as deemed appropriate.