

Early Identification Program (EIP)

The Early Identification Program (EIP), George Mason University's college access program, supports the academic, career, and personal/social development of first-generation college-bound students in Northern Virginia. EIP has graduated over 2,000 students, and over 97% enroll in college annually. Currently, over 200 EIP alumni are attending George Mason University. EIP's mission is to improve students' access to higher education and improve their quality of life by providing academic enrichment, personal development, and community engagement. Each year a new class of rising eighth graders from seven school districts in Northern Virginia are accepted into EIP. The program is a 5-year commitment, from 8th - 12th grades, and high school members dedicate three weeks of their summer to EIP's Summer Academy, held on the Fairfax and Prince William campuses. Throughout the year, EIP students receive weekly tutoring and mentoring, college exam preparation, math and science enrichment, STEM career exploration, family workshops, parent programs, leadership development, cultural experiences, career readiness, and service learning.

The Early Identification Program (EIP) has been a pivotal part of my academic journey, profoundly shaping my success as a college student. Through EIP, I was introduced to incredible mentors who inspired me to dream big and work hard. One vivid memory I have is from a STEM Fusion class led by Dr. Sarom Leang, a former EIP student, who taught programming and computational thinking. His guidance inspired my passion for programming and solidified my decision to pursue a degree in Information Technology.

Today, I continue to apply the lessons and values instilled in me through EIP. I am a college student, a Resident Advisor, and a CACI Scholar, benefiting from professional mentorship and invaluable internship opportunities. These achievements reflect the many doors that EIP has opened for me and my family. I'm truly grateful for the impact this program has had on my life.

Crystal Forson
B.S. in Information Technology |
Class of 2026



Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP)

Mason's commitment to historically underrepresented students has been visible through summer bridge programs in various iterations over the past several decades. Since 2005, the First-Gen+ Center at George Mason University, has specifically championed first-generation student success through the continued commitment to the Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP). STEP aims to enhance the recruitment, engagement, and retention of first-generation college students accepted to the university. STEP follows a residential summer bridge model, hosting between 30-40 students for 5 weeks during the summer during which students take college-level courses, attend skills building workshops and build cultural competency through community excursions. STEP empowers participants through academic skill development, access to resources, community building, self-discovery, and the global citizenship needed to thrive in today's college environment and workforce. Following the summer program, participants who successfully transition from the summer continue as STEP scholars at Mason. STEP Scholars receive continuous support during their academic career including access to STEP scholarship funds, dedicated success coaches, professional staff advisement, ongoing mentorship, and co-curricular programming.

As a first-generation college student, I began my freshman year feeling as if I were walking into uncharted territory. The unfamiliar environment of higher education was daunting, but STEP became my compass and guide. It provided me with the foundational knowledge and access to resources that have been instrumental to my success throughout my college journey. The program introduced me to a wealth of services and opportunities that I otherwise may never have known about, from academic support to professional development tools and campus involvement.

STEP has truly been a life-changing opportunity for me, shaping not only my college experience but also my personal and professional development. I am deeply grateful for the guidance, friendships, and lessons it has provided. I sincerely hope that more first-generation students like myself will have the chance to participate in this incredible program and walk away with the same transformative experiences and lifelong benefits.

Dillon Robinson
BS in Business with Concentration in Accounting
Class of 2025

You're invited to Participate in University Life's . . .



Monday, June 9, 2025
Westfields Golf Club
Shotgun Start at 8:30a.m.

A SPECIAL THANKS to our 2025 Title Sponsor, Sandy Spring Bank. We also thank all the corporations, small businesses, and individuals who, over the past 29 years, have generously contributed more than \$880,000 to support student scholarships.



**A benefit event that directly supports
preparing, recruiting, and retaining first-generation
college students**

UNIVERSITY LIFE GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 9, 2025 at Westfields Golf Club

Player Check-in: 7:30 a.m. • Shotgun Start: 8:30 a.m.

Awards Luncheon w/Live Auction: 2:00 p.m.

Players: \$250/Golfer • \$1000/Foursome

\$119/Golfer is Non-Tax Deductible



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you for joining us at the University Life Golf Classic!

Your support of this event means so much for the continued success of our Early Identification Program, one of George Mason University's longest-standing pathways to a degree. EIP provides opportunities to first-generation scholars from across our region.

Your support for EIP and the Student Transition Empowerment Program (STEP) is an investment in local students, families, communities, and employers eager to hire our career-ready graduates.

Programs like these are why George Mason University is the top public university in the state for the upward mobility of our graduates as ranked by both the Wall Street Journal and U.S. News & World Report.

I'm fortunate to hear EIP success stories each spring when we honor EIP graduates at our May Board of Visitors meeting. It's important for the university community to know what these opportunities have meant to EIP students and to hear more about the graduates' plans for starting careers or furthering their education.

We aim to scale up EIP to serve even more students through the Mason Virginia Promise, a guaranteed pathway to a bachelor's degree, or help starting a business, for any Virginian who aspires to either goal.

Thanks to your support of these programs, and your involvement in the University Life Golf Classic, these triumphs are your triumphs, too!

Sincerely,
Dr. Gregory Washington
President, George Mason University

To reserve your sponsorship package, register to play, or make a contribution visit: ulgolfclassic.ulife.gmu.edu

Questions: Contact Alissa Karton at akarton@gmu.edu or phone 703-993-8760

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES	Patriot Scholarship	Souvenir Program	Freedom Cart	Quill Lunch	Mason Tee and Hole	Green & Gold Scholarship	Individual Tee or Hole
Package Cost	\$7,500	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$700	\$500	\$300
Number of complimentary players	4	2	2	2	1	1	
Company name or logo listed on tournament banner	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Company name or logo prominently displayed at lunch venue				•			
Number of Tee signs at designated Holes	4	2			2		
Tee or Hole sign at designated Hole			•	•			
Tee and Hole sign at designated Hole					•		
Tee or Hole sign at designated Par3 Tee or Hole							•
Company name or logo displayed on golf carts			•				
Full Page Ad in Souvenir Program	•	•					
Company/individual name listed in Souvenir Program	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Special recognition during awards luncheon	•	•	•	•			

All Sponsorship packages include a special invitation to EIP and STEP events

UNIVERSITY LIFE supports every student at Mason. We work in partnership with the corporate community and private citizens, folks like you, to raise funds in support of student leadership education initiatives.

Funds raised through this tournament will benefit our first-generation student community by supporting successful resources like the Early Identification Program and Student Transition Empowerment Programs (EIP/STEP), and other initiatives that provide academic preparation, cultural awareness, career exploration, service learning, and empowerment to first-generation college students, some of whom come from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Your contributions help us realize the goal of supporting overall student achievement.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT will be a four-person scramble where each player will drive from the Tee box. Team captains determine the best ball position, and all players hit from this position. From there, best ball play will continue on to the green where each player has an opportunity to sink a winning putt. Players can assemble four-person teams; Individual golfers will be assigned to a foursome.

AWARDS will be presented to the teams with the lowest scores in each of three flights, and will be determined by actual scores after the round. Individuals will be awarded for longest drive, straightest drive, and closest to the pin on selected holes, for both men and women. There will also be an opportunity to participate in our putting contest.

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