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# WE Break Barriers WILL

“When I decided to pursue Early Childhood Education, I knew Converse was my only choice due to its reputation and location.”

-Kimberly Anderson '24

*First Graduate from OneSpartanburg, Inc.'s*

*Re:Degree Initiative*



## Stronger than the Storm: *The Resilience and Compassion of Converse*

In the wake of such an unprecedented storm as Hurricane Helene, the Converse community has embodied its core values as we've worked together to rebuild.

While some things may look different on campus, rest assured that the vibrancy of our Converse community remains the same.

*Photo by Patrick Treharne*

## CONVERSE MAGAZINE

See What the Converse  
Community Has Been Up To!

Read more at  
[converse.edu/magazine](https://converse.edu/magazine)



CONVOCATION 2024



VALKYRIES SOAR



ENRICHING MAJORS



POWER OF PASSION





## Out of the Darkness

*Student Leader Sheds Light on Mental Health*

Amaia Parkins '25 united the Converse and Spartanburg communities with our inaugural Out of the Darkness Walk in April. Designed to shed light on the experiences of those who have grappled with mental health challenges, the event also honored Parkins' late brother who died by suicide in 2016.

"I wanted to spark the conversation around this topic and end the stigma, along with telling my own story of personal struggle and mental health," Parkins shared.

More than 200 community members participated, raising more than \$3,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Visit our website to learn more about Amaia and other student leaders like her who are making a difference.

## Transforming Residential Life

Fueling Converse's momentum as we improve residence hall community spaces, the Class of 1973 recently supported the renovation of Andrews Lobby. When asked why she was passionate about this project, Anne Collins Conover '73 said, "I know how important my dorm experience was to me when I was a student here. I care about today's students and their experience at Converse. This is their home and they should be able to relax and enjoy it."

View photos and read more about the Andrews project along with our additional efforts to meet the needs of today's students at [converse.edu/magazine](https://converse.edu/magazine).



## Cultivating Community

*The student experience at Converse is filled with self-discovery, community, and lifelong memories.*

Converse's new Director of Student Programming Dallas Witt seeks to enhance student life by providing a creative, supportive environment. "I want our students to know they have a strong support system through me, but I also want to create the best experience possible," Witt says. His role focuses on leadership development, campus organizations and activities, as well as male student retention. His recent projects include organizing Homecoming Week events and coordinating a Data Science Week presentation by Dr. Will Cousins, Vice President of Baseball Development for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Converse also offers tailored resources for first-generation students, who comprised more than 40 percent of our fall 2024 incoming class. Director of First-Generation Programs & Student Success Initiatives Daphnie Glenn provides immersion experiences, mentors, and offers guidance on study skills, financial literacy, and more. "We have a lot of hard-working students who pour into this university to make it what it is," she said. "It's important that we check on them and curate a community they would not otherwise be exposed to." Through donor support, Glenn recently organized a trip for students to see *The Lion King* and hosted events for National First Gen Week in November.

Scan the QR code on the back to learn how you can support student success initiatives such as these and many more.



**"If women don't have a seat at the table, they don't have a voice about the future."**

*— Rita Allison*

## Women Supporting Women

With a record-breaking attendance, this year's Women's Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Converse College for Women and Converse Career Development, focused on communication and women supporting women.

South Carolina Lt. Governor Pamela Evette served as the keynote speaker. Her words served as a powerful reminder that women can overcome challenges and inspired the audience to strive for their goals.

The day was full of rich panel discussions, networking opportunities, and breakout sessions focused on topics ranging from salary negotiation to wealth management, career transitions, and more.

We look forward to continuing this supportive environment at the 2025 Conference on Thursday, July 24, 2025.