ANNUAL REPORT
OF GOALS AND
MEASURES
2013-2014

Early Outreach and Support Programs

Foster Youth Program

A Division of Student Affairs
California State University, Chico
CSU, Chico now offers a comprehensive network program, called PATH Scholars, to support the educational goals of current and former foster youth students. PATH is an acronym for Promoting Achievement Through Hope.

I. Mission Statement
PATH Scholars, in conjunction with the campus Foster Youth Committee, is dedicated to the higher educational needs of former foster youth. We will enhance access to the California State University, Chico community through collaborative efforts with other college network and community partners. For those identified as former foster youth, we will develop stability by acting as a liaison with campus and community resources. Our goal is to cultivate successful, proficient, and self-aware citizens in pursuit of their degree.

II. Departmental Accomplishments

- Improved upon the identification of former foster youth.
- Provided educational, cultural, and career activities for former foster youth.
- Developed a more formal partnership with University Housing
- Developed a website for the program

Highlights:

- **Improved upon the identification of former foster youth** – Since Fall 2011, the Office of Admissions had been working on a foster youth identification system. This spring, the Foster Youth Program Coordinator was brought in to work with Admissions and help to clean up and streamline the process. The Foster Youth Questionnaire was refined to fit the needs of the admissions process. This has facilitated direct communication with self-identified foster youth to inform them of availability of services. In addition, we have worked with the Records Office to improve former foster youth identification for the purposes of priority enrollment.

- **Provided educational, cultural, and career activities for former foster youth** – In March, the Foster Youth Program Coordinator took former foster youth to the Foster Youth Education Summit in Sacramento. In addition, several former foster youth participated in the Professional Etiquette Dinner offered by the Career Center. FYP collaborated with the Advising Office to provide registration workshops and with Financial Aid to provide a FAFSA workshop. The Foster Youth Program also offered an end of the year celebration as well as acknowledged graduating former foster youth.

- **Developed a more formal partnership with University Housing** – The Foster Youth Program has partnered with University Housing staff, Anabel...
Grim and Eva Kennedy. Eva has served as a liaison with the program and works closely with the Foster Youth Program Coordinator. She has been flagging foster youth students and making phone calls to students to let them know about University Village as a year round housing option. University Housing has also waived the initial housing deposit ($300) for former foster youth until their financial aid is disbursed at the start of the semester.

III. Changes in Policies and Procedures

- **University Housing** – University Housing waives the initial housing deposit ($300) for former foster youth until their financial aid is disbursed at the start of the semester.

IV. Resources Summary

**Budget Summary:**

- Foster Youth allocation for 2013-2014 (General Fund - for Coordinator who started January 2014) $18,692
- Rollover from Johnson Foundation Planning Grant 10,643
- Johnson Foundation Implementation Grant allocation for 2013-2014 pending
- Total Allocation 29,335
- Projected Annual Expense 24,524
- Projected Rollover Balance $ 4,811

**Note:** Fiscal year is based on an October 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014 timeline.

**Staffing:**

A Foster Youth Program Coordinator, Marina Fox, was hired in December and she began in January 2014. This is a full-time 10 month position.

**Facilities/Equipment:**

Marina is currently working in a vacant office within the EOP office. This is a temporary solution until a more permanent one can be found.

V. Program Evaluation for Past Year

**Note:** The Foster Youth Program is partially funded by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation. The program objectives for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 are taken from the grant proposal.
**Annual Objectives 2013-2014**

1. Develop and/or test the foster youth identification system for accuracy. (Strategic priority 4)

   **Met** - Since Fall 2011, the Office of Admissions had been working on a foster youth identification system. This spring, the Foster Youth Program Coordinator was brought in to work with Admissions and help to clean up and streamline the process. The Foster Youth Questionnaire was refined to fit the needs of the admissions process. This has facilitated direct communication with self-identified foster youth to inform them of availability of services.

2. Appoint and train the central point of contact. (Strategic priorities 1, 2, 4)

   **Met/In progress** - A Foster Youth Program Coordinator, Marina Fox, was hired in December and she began in January 2014. Training has been ongoing.

3. The central point of contact will be responsible for: (Strategic priorities 1, 2, 4, 5)
   - Meeting with campus Technology Department to determine data collection methods for tracking currently enrolled foster youth.

      **Met** – The Educational Data and Technology Specialist who developed the Advisor program developed a version of Advisor specifically for the Foster Youth Program. Within this database, we are able to track currently enrolled students, program services used and how often, number of units attempted, number of units completed, GPA, financial aid information, as well as other information.

   - Creating marketing materials for identified foster youth about the Foster Youth Program.

      **Met** – The Foster Youth Program website has been developed and has gone live, [www.csuchico.edu/fosteryouth](http://www.csuchico.edu/fosteryouth). The Office of Admissions worked closely with the Foster Youth Program Coordinator to refine the Foster Youth Questionnaire to fit the needs of the admissions process. This has facilitated direct communication with self-identified foster youth to inform them of availability of services. In addition, mailers have been sent out to current students as well as prospective students.

   - Developing on-campus partnerships with other departments on campus.
The composition of the campus Foster Youth Committee has assisted in the identification of individuals who serve as liaisons to our program. Departments represented include: Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Student Support Services (SSS), Counseling and Wellness Center, Career Center, University Housing and Food Services, Office of Admissions, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Academic Advising, Student Health Services, Financial Aid and Scholarship Office, and Accessibility Resource Center. A referral protocol has also been established and involves contacting the Foster Youth Program Coordinator.

- Developing a campus resource list to help foster youth access the appropriate on-campus and off-campus resources.

A bookmark has been created with key contacts – Academic Advising, Financial Aid, EOP, Housing, and PATH Scholars (Foster Youth Program). The Foster Youth Program website also lists resources such as Foster Youth Committee members and contact information and off-campus resources.

- Assisting in the design of Tier I (generalized) and Tier II (more in-depth) services to be provided in the individual support program and begin offering services.

In progress – The Foster Youth Program Coordinator did not start working on campus until January 2014. We anticipate more progress in this area in year two.

4. Collaborate with network partners. (Strategic priorities 4, 5)

Unmet – Some of the other campus personnel have not yet been hired so a coordinated effort between the three campuses has not yet begun.

5. Participate in John Burton Foundation Training and Technical Assistance opportunities. (Strategic priorities 2, 3, 4, 5)

Met – The Foster Youth Program Coordinator has participated in several webinar trainings including:

- Salient Factors Related to PostSecondary Retention and the Value of a College Degree for Foster Care Alumni (Feb 11, 2014)
- Medi-Cal Coverage until age 26 for Former Foster Youth (Feb 27, 2014)
- Priority Registration for Foster Youth Two Years Later: Challenges and Triumphs (March 5, 2014)
• Information is Power: Using Data to Inform Campus Support Program Design (March 19, 2014)
• Foster Youth Support Program Practitioner call (April 2, 2014)
• From Their Lips to Your Ears: Using Focus Groups to Inform Campus Support Program Design (May 7, 2014)

VI. Ongoing Assessment Efforts

Although the Foster Youth Program Coordinator did not begin in her position until January 2014, she was able to establish meaningful interactions with approximately 30 former foster youth students.

VII. Analysis: What actions need to occur to move to the “next level”? 

Marina will become permanent in January 2015 which will go a long ways toward institutionalizing the program. A permanent location for the Foster Youth Program will need to be found, including a lounge area for program participants.

VIII. Goals for the next academic year

Annual Objectives 2014-2015

1. Evaluate data results for 2013-2014 to determine what modifications to make to program. (Strategic priorities 1, 4, 5)

2. Offer Tier I and Tier II services to target populations. (Strategic priorities 1, 4, 5)

3. Secure a designated space on campus for program. (Strategic priorities 1, 4)

4. Coordinate at least two leadership and community engagement activities for currently enrolled foster youth. (Strategic priorities 1, 4, 6)