



First Star's Academies are a long-term college-prep program for high school foster youth. We keep our scholars on track for high school graduation and prepare them for higher education and adulthood by providing specialized programming that addresses the academics, life skills, and adult supports unique to students in foster care.

First Star KVC, West Virginia Academy, and the NASA ERC program are collaborating to develop and implement an immersive summer program for First Star scholars at Fairmont State University!

**FS ACADEMY DIRECTOR**  
WALTER SWOOPE

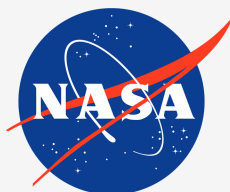
**EMAIL**  
WSWOOPE@KVC.ORG

**NASA IV&V ERC  
PROGRAM MANAGER,**  
TODD ENSIGN, ED.D.  
**EMAIL**  
TENSIGN@FAIRMONTSTATE.EDU

**Instagram Handle:**  
@firststaracademies

**Website:**  
www.firststar.org

## FUTURE PLANS & PARTNERS



FAIRMONT STATE  
UNIVERSITY™

We are all ecstatic about the unique collaboration with NASA's Education Resource Center and Destination SPACE Inc., at Fairmont State University!



## The Academy Model

### ACADEMY PROGRAMMING INCLUDES...



#### ACADEMY PROGRAM

4 year college prep.  
program for foster youth  
focused on academics and  
life skills.

#### STEAM ACADEMY

Monthly virtual sessions and  
access to online courses  
that focus on Science,  
Technology, Engineering,  
Arts, and Math.

#### ALUMNI PROGRAM

Offered to scholars who  
graduate the Academy as a  
resource during their  
transition to adulthood.

#### SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Leadership opportunity for  
scholars focused on  
becoming civically engaged  
and enacting change in  
their local communities.

#### SUMMER ACADEMY

Intensive 3-4 week  
residential enrichment  
program on a university  
campus.

#### VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Weekly mentoring and  
tutoring sessions, as well as  
an open environment to  
connect and build community  
through virtual hangouts.

#### CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

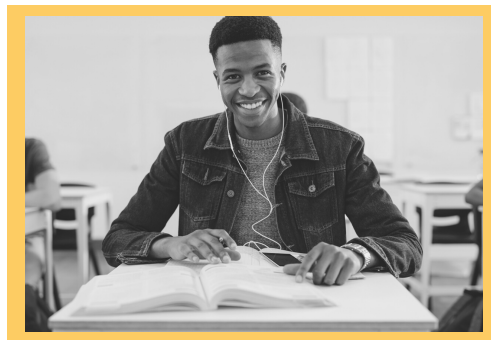
Seminars and workshops that  
provide tools to caregivers to  
become advocates for their  
youth.



# Beating the Odds



## FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS



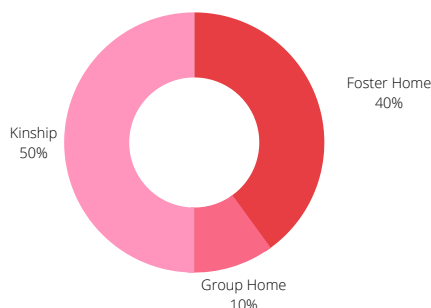
**98%** of scholars who engage in the Academy for at least 2 years, graduate from high school and **91%** enroll in higher education compared to just **50%** of foster youth who graduate high school and only **10%** who pursue higher education nationwide.

## WHAT SCHOLARS ARE SAYING ABOUT FIRST STAR'S IMPACT

- **94%** Believe attending college is possible for them
- **89%** Say getting good grades is important to them
- **87%** Feel like they have a plan for the future
- **76%** Feel like they are stronger because of their experience in foster care
- **70%** Feel like First Star has helped them DREAM BIGGER!

## FIRST STAR KVC WEST VIRGINIA ACADEMY DATA

### FOSTER PLACEMENT



Foster Home	83%
Group Home	0%
Reunified with Biological Parents	0%
Adopted	0%
Guardianship	0%
Kinship Care	17%
Indep. Living / Emanc.	0%
Other	0%

### GENDER IDENTIFICATION

**42%** ♂ **58%** ♀

### RACE/ETHNICITY

0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
African Amer.	Latino/a Amer.	White	Amer. Indian	Multi-Racial	Asian/Pacific Isl	Other

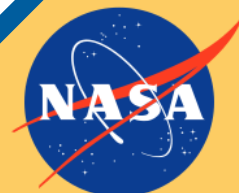
### GRADE LEVEL

Middle School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
17%	25%	8%	25%	25%

### CLASS OF 2021

Graduated from High school	100%	Non-Post Secondary	0%
Post. Secondary Education	100%	Enlistment in Military	-
University	33%	Full-Time Employment	-
Community College	67%	Non-High School Graduates	0%
Vocational School	-	Enlistment in Military	-
		Full Time Employment	-
		GED	-

Data above is representative of both the national organization and the First Star KVC West Virginia. Collected data was submitted by the Academy Director using the First Star Data Dashboard and by scholars through an anonymous Survey developed by Tiller Inc.



More on the NASA ERC Program at Fairmont State University.

The summer STEM camp will support mindful growth and development of youth in grades 9-12. During the time they spend on Fairmont State's campus they will get to experience and discover a wide range of STEM topics through hands-on activities. They will also experience a college campus setting, which will provide them with a direct connection to the possibility of higher education.

Throughout the year, scholars will be supported through mentoring opportunities in STEM through our First Network ambassadors, our NASA Education Resource Center program, the First Star STEAM Virtual Academy and monthly Saturday programming through the First Star KVC Academy.