

# IMPACT REPORT

**FIRST STAR  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMY  
2023- 2024**

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*ACADEMY DIRECTOR: PALOMA DELGADO*



**first  
star**  
putting students first



#### First Star's Mission:

*First Star provides high school youth in foster care with the opportunity, tools, and support to successfully transition to self-sufficiency through higher education or other viable pathways.*

#### First Star's Vision:

*We envision a world where youth in foster care have equitable opportunities to acquire education and skills to achieve fulfilling and productive adult lives.*

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.



Want to get involved or become a partner? Please reach out to the Academy Director using the contact information below!

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## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves.

# The Academy Model

## ACADEMY PROGRAMMING INCLUDES...



### MONTHLY ACADEMIES

Monthly programming over four years for youth in foster care focused on academics and life skills while they are in high school.

### CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

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

### STEAM ACADEMY

Virtual Tech Talks and access to labs 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 2-4 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.



## Media Handles

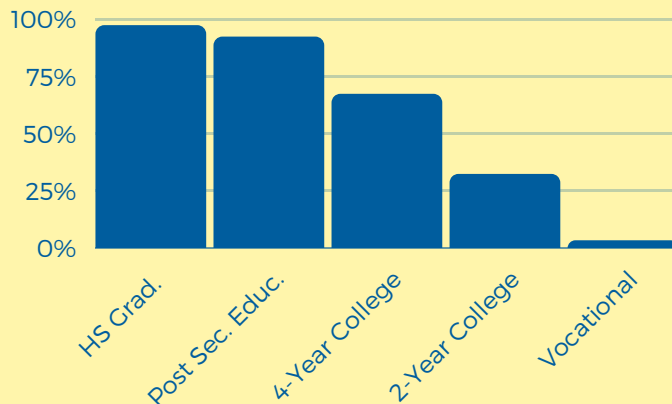


@FirsStarInc | @FirstStar\_Alumni | @FirstStarSteam | @fs.scholaradvisorycommittee

# FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

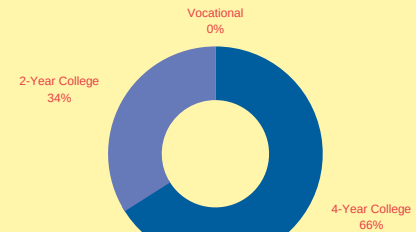
## NATIONAL GRADUATING CLASS

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

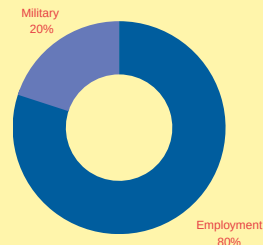


All data above and to the right is representative of internal data collected by First Star National and all data is self-reported by Academy Directors.

## POST SECONDARY EDUCATION



## NON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION



## 2023 STEAM

This summer First Star hosted the summer campaign First Star "STEAM in the Summer" Day, a fun, collaborative, interactive day of scholarly engagement in science, engineering, technology, arts, and mathematics. 100 % of our participating academies accessed the grant funding to support scholar participation in STEAM programming for Spring or Summer of this year. **ASU Academy participated in many STEAM related activities this summer such as visiting a nursing lab classroom setting.**



## CELEBRATING SCHOLAR VOICE



The First Star Scholar Advisory Committee created a podcast series titled the Scholar Voice Podcast where they engaged in dialogue around advocacy and leadership development to build community with foster youth across the network.

The podcast is housed on our Youtube page, check it out!

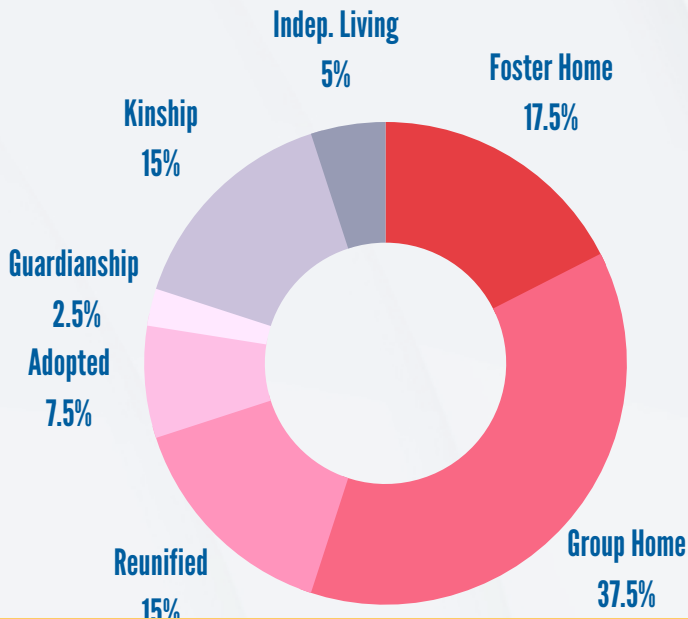


The First Star Alumni Program's goal is to remain connected and ensure Alumni have access to resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, career, and advanced education.

- **63% of the 2023 graduating class enrolled in the Alumni Program**
- **The 2023 Alumni Awards Show awarded our largest graduating senior class and almost 30 Alumni during our annual community celebration in June 2023**

# FIRST STAR ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY ACADEMY DATA

## Scholar Data



Foster Home	18%
Group Home	38%
Reunified with Biological Parents	15%
Adopted	<1%
Guardianship	<1%
Kinship Care	15%
Indep. Living / Emanc.	<1%
Other	0%

### GENDER IDENTIFICATION

38% ♂ 55% ♀

### RACE/ETHNICITY

<1%	53%	18%	15%	0%	<1%	0%
African Amer.	Latino/a	White	Amer. Indian	Multi-Racial	Asian/Pacific Isl	Other

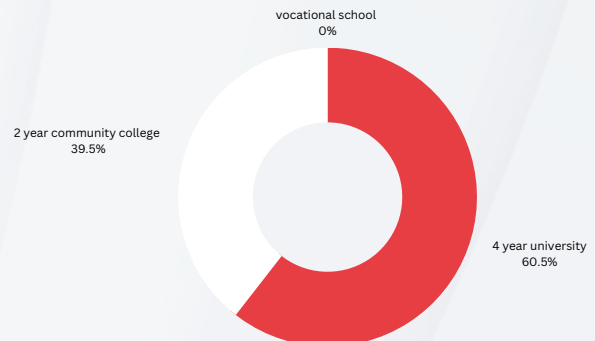
### GRADE LEVEL

Middle School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
<1%	15%	13%	13%	53%

## CLASS OF 2023

100% of First Star ASU Academy seniors graduated from high school in 2023!

76% of FS ASU graduates are pursuing higher education opportunities and 54% are attending Arizona State University in the fall!



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Academics - Mathematics, Language Arts, Science and SAT Prep classes  
Teambuilding Activities - led by Youth Coach mentor staff

Lifeskills - Social Emotional Learning, Dance, Financial Literacy, Power Chats, Art, and Career Exploration workshops



## Alumni Summer Transitions

ASU Alumni, Sammie, was a very committed scholar to the program and to her education, despite her challenges throughout high school. She got admitted to ASU with a full-ride scholarship! Sammie is now majoring in Biological Sciences and about to complete her first semester this December. Sammie is thriving and looking at getting ahead with her classes. We are very proud of Sammie's milestones!



## ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT



### ASU ACADEMY IN THE NEWS



Youth in foster care empowered for academic success through ASU's First Star Academy



### ACADEMY STAFF SPOTLIGHT

"We had an amazing summer program. Our scholars had the opportunity to build community among each other and share their different cultures. They had the opportunity to explore different career options and were able to learn and engage in different life skills workshops that will help them academically and in their personal lives. Our scholars had a great time during the summer program and are already wondering what is next."  
-Paloma, Academy Director



### SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS

" Being in First Star has put me ahead of the curve in terms of being knowledgeable about college life and scholarship information. By visiting ASU, I'm able to see what my day-to-day life would look like traversing the expansive campus. In addition, First Star's Saturday Academies have kept me updated with new scholarship opportunities and how to apply for them. Overall, I have nothing but good things to say about the First Star Program at ASU!" - Joshua P.



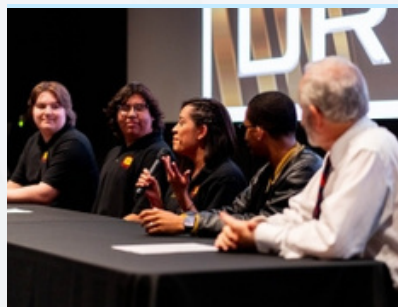


# SUMMER ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

ASU hosted Monthly Sessions

**Session 1:**  
JUNE 10th - JULY 1st

**Session 2:**  
JULY 10 - July 30



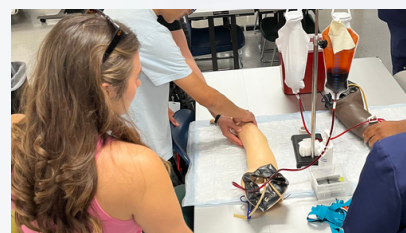
## First Star ASU Showcase

The event aimed to raise awareness of the First Star Academy initiative while also aiming to connect with and potentially acquire new partnerships among those stakeholders at the event who have and are working with foster care organizations, child welfare agencies, and group home facilities to strengthen our recruitment efforts year-round.



## Senior Week: Longboarding Lessons

During the last week of summer academy senior were given lessons on longboarding. At the conclusion of the workshop every senior was able to keep the longboards as a gift from Swappow. Thank you Swappow Foundation for their generous donation this summer!



## Learning About Nursing

During the summer academy scholars got an opportunity to learn about how to be a nurse for a day as well as learning about the programs from the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at ASU.

