

IMPACT REPORT

FIRST STAR

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SAN BERNADINO ACADEMY

2023- 2024

ACADEMY DIRECTOR: KURT MANIO





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!

ACADEMY DIRECTOR
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WEBSITE

[Website Link](#)

CSU SAN BERNARDINO UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT:

CSUSB ensures student learning and success, conducts research, scholarly and creative activities, and is actively engaged in the vitality of our region. We cultivate the professional, ethical, and intellectual development of our students, faculty, and staff so they thrive and contribute to a globally connected society.

The Division of Student Affairs Pre-College Programs helps provide both middle and high school students with educational and personal support services that will increase high school graduation, college enrollment, persistence and college completion.

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

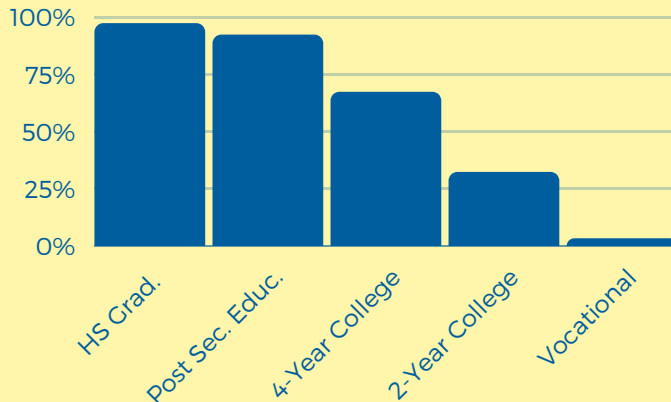


@FirsStarInc | @FirstStar_Alumni | @FirstStarSteam | @fs.scholaradvisorycommittee

FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

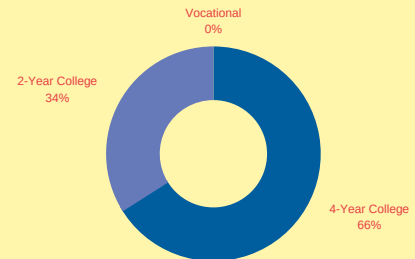
NATIONAL GRADUATING CLASS

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

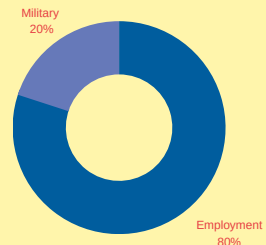


All data above and to the right is representative of internal data collected by First Star National and all data is self-reported by Academy Directors.

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 programming. CSUSB scholars will continue to have access to STEAM virtual programming throughout the year.



CELEBRATING SCHOLAR VOICE



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

ACADEMY PARTNERSHIPS

Academy Relaunch



First Star CSU San Bernardino Academy received funding from the California State University (CSU) system to continue its effort to positively impact the educational and early adulthood outcomes of youth in foster care. In collaboration with Cal-SOAP and the Office of Pre-college Programs, First Star Academy will be coordinating efforts to recruit a cohort of 30 students this new school year.



CSU San Bernardino's Commitment to Pre-College Programs



In May 2023, CSUSB made a commitment to hire an Executive Director for the Office of Pre-College Programs, thus making it an official department for various K-12 outreach programs, including First Star Academy.

The Office of Pre-college Programs has formed a Collaborative Action Team for Youth in Foster Care. In partnership with Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and CA College Corps, Cal-SOAP and First Star Academy will be leading a collaborative effort to coordinate outreach and engagement for youth in foster care. The objective is to provide academic advising, college and career/readiness, and coordinated services to increase access to postsecondary opportunities.



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

