IMPACT REPORT

FIRST STAR
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY
2023- 2024

ACADEMY DIRECTOR: NICHOLAS CONTRERAS
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.
FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

NATIONAL GRADUATING CLASS
2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS Grad.</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Sec. Educ.</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-Year College</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year College</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-Year College</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-Year College</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.

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.

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!

FIRST STAR SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Raise Your Voice

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

WWW.FIRSTSTAR.ORG
Foster Home 70%
Group Home 0%
Reunified with Biological Parents 0%
Adopted 0%
Guardianship 10%
Kinship Care 20%
Indep. Living / Emanc. 0%
Other 0%

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

GENDER IDENTIFICATION
40% Male
60% Female

GRADE LEVEL
Middle School 0%
9th Grade 20%
10th Grade 20%
11th Grade 20%
12th Grade 40%

RACE/ETHNICITY
African Amer. 20%
Latino/a 10%
White 60%
Amer. Indian 0%
Multi-Racial 0%
Asian/Pacific Isl 0%
Other 0%

CLASS OF 2023
100% of First Star U.U Academy seniors graduated from high school in 2023!

% of FS U.U graduates are pursuing higher education opportunities and % are attending University of Utah in the fall!
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Academy 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

Academics

- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- Science
- SAT Prep classes

Teambuilding Activities

- Led by Youth Coach mentor staff

Lifeskills

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

Life After Care Course with The 1999 Collective

This summer, the Academy collaborated with a local org – the 1999 Collective – on a “Life After Care” course to help our seniors learn about all the resources available to them in our state and help create a smooth transition to higher ed and/or career exploration and technical training. During the course, students put together a budget for single-adult-living, a resume for work purposes, as well as a personal statement for college applications, and so much more. Several schools in addition to our own U of U presented to the class and provided materials to our students. All in all, students reported feeling excited about coming to the U of U next year and gave extremely positive feedback for the classes, so we’ll plan on continuing this next summer!

Summer Workshops

This summer we partnered with several local artists and artisans to provide a slew of workshops for our students to engage with daily. These included: sushi-making; drama/improv; painting; and several STEM-related workshops, including two First Star STEAM workshops! We found that the best workshops allowed our youth to learn something and express themselves while bonding with their peers and mentors.

Camping in the Summer

This year, First Star U of U went camping for the first time since 2019! The team took about 10 students out the very first weekend of Summer Academy 23 to brave the wilderness. The crew stayed 2 days and 3 nights at East Canyon Reservoir where students swam, hiked, made many s’mores and even canoed out on the reservoir!