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.

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.

MONTHLY ACADEMIES

STEAM ACADEMY

ALUMNI PROGRAM

SUMMER ACADEMY

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

First Star's Mission:
First Star provides high school youth in foster care with the opportunity, tools, and supports 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.

UCLA MISSION STATEMENT:
UCLA's primary purpose as a public research university is the creation, dissemination, preservation, and application of knowledge for the betterment of our global society.
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

- 4-Year College: 66%
- 2-Year College: 34%
- Employment: 80%

NON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Military: 20%
- Vocational: 0%

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 ALUMNI
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, careers, 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
First Star University of California Los Angeles Academy Data

**Scholar Data**

- **Foster Home**: 54%
- **Group Home**: 0%
- **Reunified with Biological Parents**: 14%
- **Adopted**: <1%
- **Guardianship**: 23%
- **Kinship Care**: <1%
- **Indep. Living / Emanc.**: 0%
- **Other**: 0%

![Pie chart showing percentages of different placements for scholars.]

**Gender Identification**

- **Male**: 29%
- **Female**: 71%

**Race/Ethnicity**

- **African Amer.**: 26%
- **Latino/a**: 66%
- **White**: 0%
- **Amer. Indian**: 0%
- **Multi-Racial**: 0%
- **Asian/Pacific Isl**: <1%
- **Other**: <1%

**Grade Level**

- **Middle School**: 0%
- **9th Grade**: 11%
- **10th Grade**: 17%
- **11th Grade**: 34%
- **12th Grade**: 37%

**Class of 2023**

100% of First Star BGSA Academy Seniors Graduated from High School in 2023!

- **Over 90% of graduates are pursuing post-secondary education opportunities.**

**Post-Secondary Education**

- **4 year university**: 61.3%
- **2 year community college**: 30.8%
- **Workforce**: 7.7%

Data above is representative of both the national organization and the First Star University of California Los Angeles. 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.
**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

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**FIRST STAR BGSA SCHOLARS PRESENT AT 2023 CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT**

Our First Star UCLA BGSA scholars had the unique opportunity to present at the 2023 CA Foster Youth Education Summit. Their presentation was entitled: “Beyond College & Career Preparation: Creating Space for Identity-Based Exploration and Self-Empowerment”

During their presentation, students shared the amazing work they were involved in with their program committee, talked about the importance of peer mentorship, and brought awareness for the need for more self-exploration opportunities in education spaces.

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**ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT**

**FIRST STAR UCLA ACADEMY IN THE NEWS**

**TIME**

**NEWSNATION**

**NIGHTLINE**

**SUMMER ALUMNI TRANSITIONS**

Alliyah (she/hers) graduated this summer along with her Cohort 5 peers. She joined the program as a freshman in 2018 and remained committed despite the pandemic. She participated in BGSA’s transitional summer academy after high school graduation. She found it extremely beneficial and helpful. Alliyah will be attending CSUN in the fall.

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*“Working as a peer mentor established relationships that still today are still part of my life, and although it started off as a mentorship they have become equal in the support we offer each other”*

- Isael

Cohort 3 Alumni Youth Coach 2019-2023

Isael is currently attending Parsons in New York for his Master’s Degree
SUMMER ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

UCLA BGSA Academy Dates
July 9th-July 29th

BGSA Scholars participated in yoga exercises to fully embrace wellness activities outside of the academic programming. They focused on breathing and meditation techniques. Thank you to the SEWI team for their continued partnership! SEWI has delivered social emotional learning sessions during Summer Academy for the past 3 years.

Yoga for Healthy Mental Health Lifestyles

BGSA scholars had the opportunity to work with world class producers and screenwriters to create short films. Scholars were hands-on in the writing and production process. These short films were used as a creative medium to express the challenges and dangers they’ve experienced.

Summer Academy field trips included sailing lessons, movie nights in Westwood, Rosebowl tour, and a day in Exposition Park.

Thank you for visiting our Summer Academy Congresswoman Kamlager-Dove

She Ready Foundation Film Production Program