

IMPACT REPORT

FIRST STAR
UCLA BRUIN GUARDIAN SCHOLARS ACADEMY
2023- 2024

INTERIM ACADEMY DIRECTOR: TOMIPE KUKOYI





UCLA

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.



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

ACADEMY DIRECTOR

TOMIPE KUKOYI

EMAIL

TKUKOYI@SAONET.UCLA.EDU

WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://BGSA.UCLA.EDU/](https://BGSA.UCLA.EDU/)

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.

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

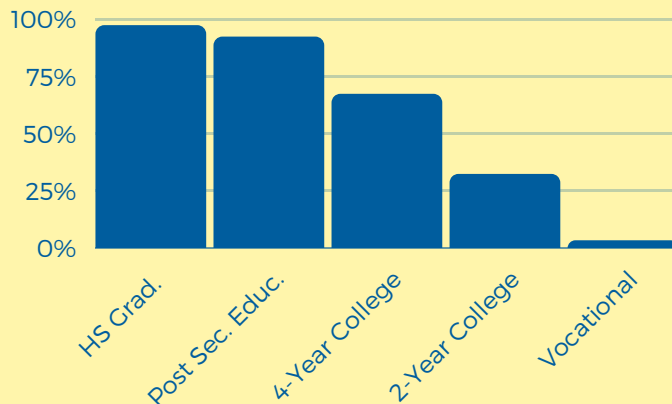


@FirsStarInc | @FirstStar_Alumni | @FirstStarTeam | @fs.scholaradvisorycommittee

FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

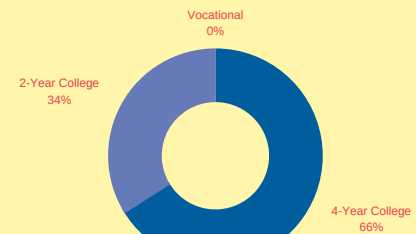
NATIONAL GRADUATING CLASS

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

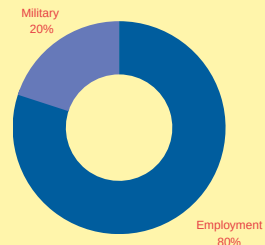


All data above and to the right is representative of internal data collected by First Star National and all data is self-reported by Academy Directors.

POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

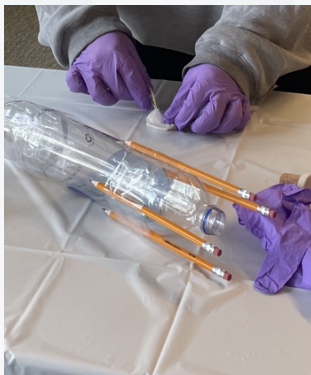


NON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION



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.



FIRST STAR NATIONAL
STEAM
ACADEMY



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!

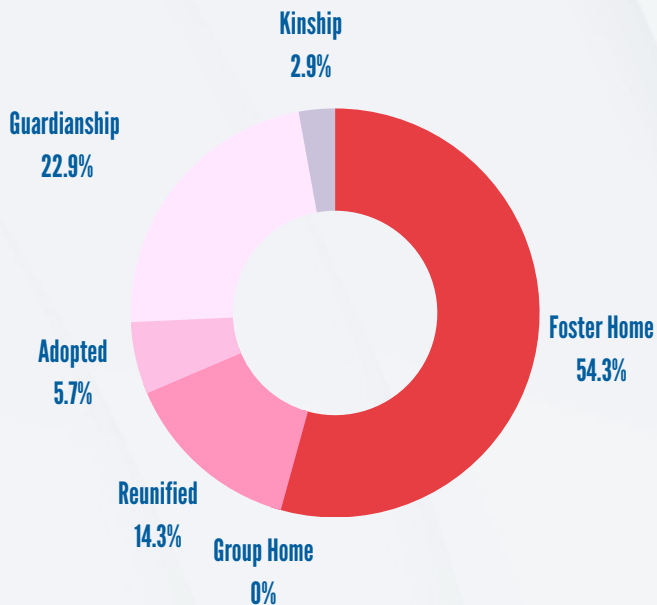


The First Star Alumni Program's goal is to remain connected and ensure Alumni have access to resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, careers, and advanced education.

- 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

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%

GENDER IDENTIFICATION



RACE/ETHNICITY



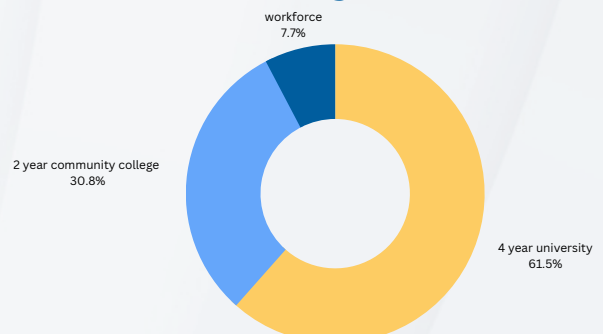
GRADE LEVEL



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.



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



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.

ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT



FIRST STAR UCLA ACADEMY IN THE NEWS



ACADEMY STAFF SPOTLIGHT

"Working as a peer mentor established relationships that till this 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 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 extremally beneficial and helpful. Alliyah will be attending CSUN in the fall.

SUMMER ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS



UCLA BGSA Academy Dates
July 9th-July 29th



Yoga for Healthy Mental Health Lifestyles

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.



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

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.