

IMPACT REPORT

**FIRST STAR
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ACADEMY
2023- 2024**

ACADEMY DIRECTOR: MARIA PIA DE CASTRO





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 Link

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the University of Miami is to transform lives through education, research, innovation, and service.

We aspire at the University of Miami: to be a global university with an intentionally hemispheric strategy, pursuing inclusive engagement as a bridge across the Americas to the rest of the world; to be an excellent university, striving to achieve the highest standards of performance in every aspect of our work; to be a relevant university, connecting scholarship to real-world solutions; and to be an exemplary university, offering a model to society through the steadfast achievement of our mission.

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

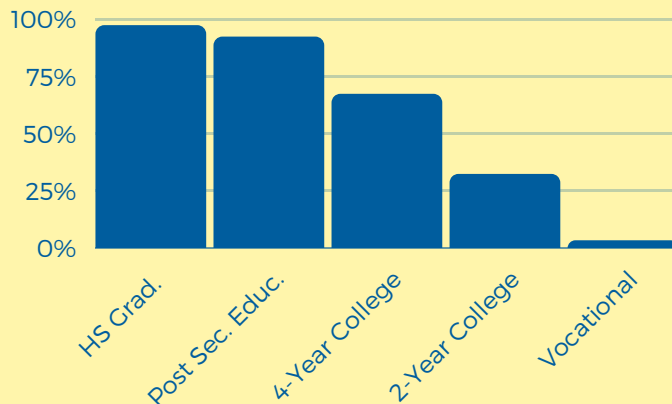


@FirsStarInc | @FirstStar_Alumni | @FirstStarSteam | @fs.scholaradvisorycommittee

FIRST STAR SCHOLARS ARE BEATING THE ODDS

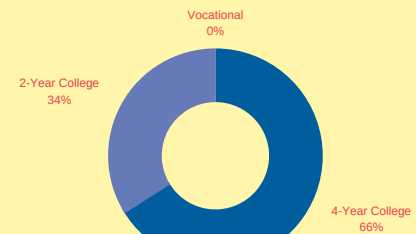
NATIONAL GRADUATING CLASS

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

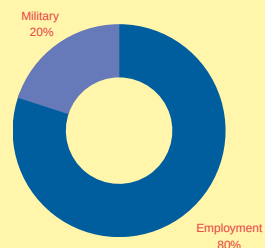


All data above and to the right is representative of internal data collected by First Star National and all data is self-reported by Academy Directors.

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. **U Miami scholars participated in many STEAM lab activities with provided materials via our grant funding.**



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!**

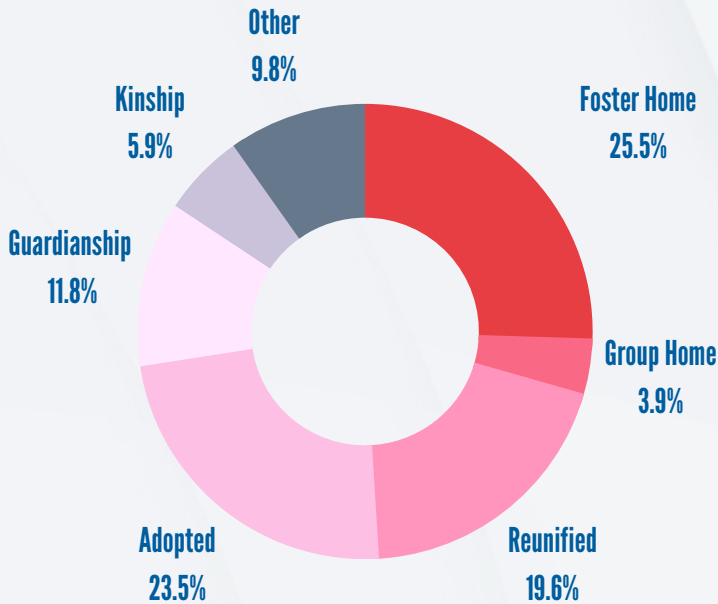


The First Star Alumni Program's goal is to remain connected and ensure Alumni have access to resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, career, and advanced education.

- **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**

FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ACADEMY DATA

SCHOLAR DATA



Foster Home	25%
Group Home	<1%
Reunified with Biological Parents	20%
Adopted	24%
Guardianship	12%
Kinship Care	<1%
Indep. Living / Emanc.	0%
Other	0%

GENDER IDENTIFICATION



RACE/ETHNICITY

78%	20%	%	0%	<1%	0%	0%
African Amer.	Latino/a	White	Amer. Indian	Multi-Racial	Asian/Pacific Isl	Other

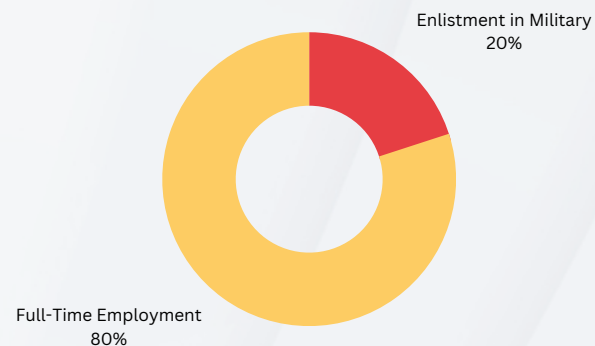
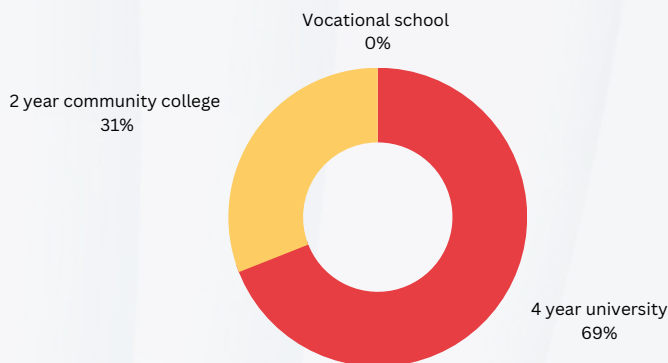
GRADE LEVEL

Middle School	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
24%	31%	16%	<1%	25%

CLASS OF 2023

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

Over 50% of FS UM graduates are pursuing higher education opportunities



Data above is representative of both the national organization and the First Star University of Miami. 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
Team building Activities - led by Youth Coach mentor staff

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



Youth Coaches presented at the YES Institute training. The YES Institute is a nonprofit that focuses on gender and orientation awareness.



UM Scholars were able to participate in the School of Nursing Simulation Lab during Summer Academy



Healthy Habits workshop: UM scholars learned about healthy relationships with oneself and others.



UM Scholars visited the science museum during Summer Academy to cultivate an interest in STEAM majors and careers.



SUMMER ACADEMY SPOTLIGHT



FIRST STAR UM ACADEMY NEWS

Children's Impact Fund

GRANT AWARDED

First Star UM Academy was granted funding for SAT Prep for TAY youth to prepare for post secondary education.



First Star UM Academy Summer Session Dates:

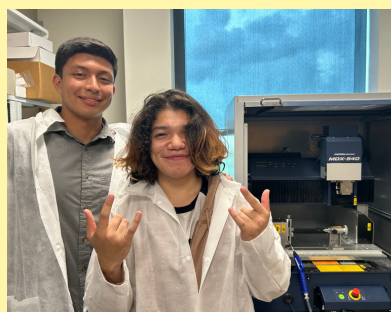
June 9th-10th
June 11th-12th



first
star
putting students first



SCHOLAR TESTIMONIALS



Janus: STEM career exploration program

Romeo was part of Janus, a program to promote STEM careers to our youth. The program is coordinated with the school of engineering at UM.