



ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

FIRST STAR ACADEMY

2024

IMPACT REPORT



Arizona State
University

ABOUT FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY




Arizona State University


Educational Outreach and Student Services


Access ASU is dedicated to increasing access to higher education and preparing Arizona students for success through family engagement, strategic K-12 education and community partnerships. Access ASU's programs and initiatives are designed to ensure all Arizona students graduate high school ready to thrive in college and the 21st century workforce. The First Star – Arizona State University Academy is a free, comprehensive four-year college access program that aims to provide foster youth the academic support, enrichment, and resources needed to enroll and succeed in college.

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 **Email:** rachel.kist@asu.edu

 **Phone Number:** firststar@asu.edu

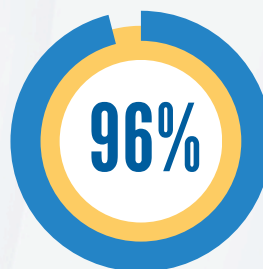
 **Website:** <https://eoss.asu.edu/access/first-star-academy>

 **Instagram:** @firststarasu



FIRST STAR 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



**HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
COMPLETION**

COMPARED TO 50% NATIONALLY



FIRST STAR ODU ACADEMY IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Hosts of the 2023 First Star
National Conference



ASU Academy Showcase 2023

THE ACADEMY MODEL

ACADEMY PROGRAMMING INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:



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.

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.



STEAM ACADEMY

Virtual Tech Talks and access to labs that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.



SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Leadership opportunity for scholars focused on becoming civically engaged and enacting change in their local communities.



ALUMNI PROGRAM

Offered to scholars who graduate the Academy as a resource during their transition to adulthood.



BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD

CELEBRATING SCHOLAR SUCCESS



FIRST STAR ALUMNI PROGRAM

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.



81% of the 2024 graduating class enrolled in the Alumni Program

79% of enrolled Alumni engage with the program via resources, newsletters and events

18% of peer mentors are First Star Alumni

FIRST STAR STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

First Star encourages advocacy and engagement in social justice through the Scholar Advisory Committee (SAC). SAC is composed of current scholars from across the First Star Academy network and from the Alumni Program. SAC allows scholars to build community, freely share their ideas and opinions, and dialogue about important issues!



80% of SAC scholars were returners from last year

100% of SAC scholars stated they felt more confident taking on leadership roles.

100% of SAC scholars stated they felt more confident in advocating for themselves

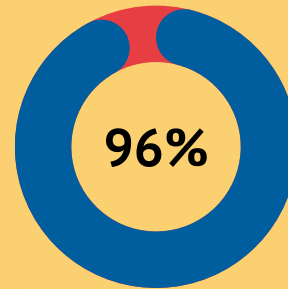
 **REFER A STUDENT**



NATIONAL FIRST STAR CLASS OF 2024

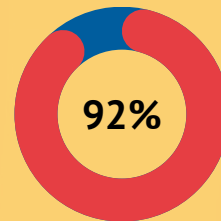


National Graduating Class



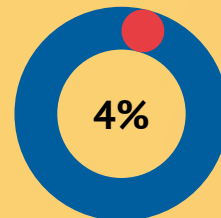
H.S Diploma: 96%
Credit Recovery: 4%

Post-Secondary Pathways



4-year: 55%
2-year CC: 33%
Vocation/Trade School: 4%

Workforce Pathways



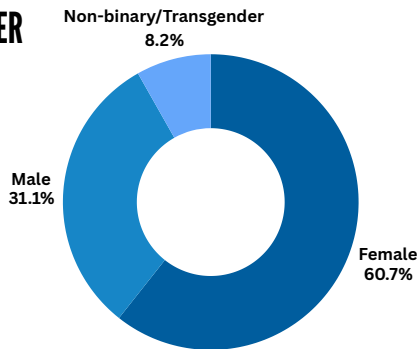
Apprenticeship/Union: 0%
Full-Time Employment: 4%
Military: 0%



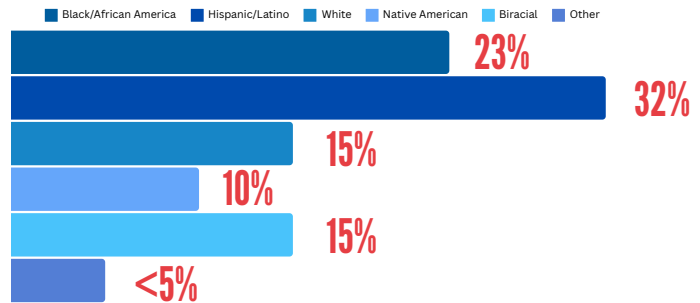
FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY

SCHOLAR PROFILE

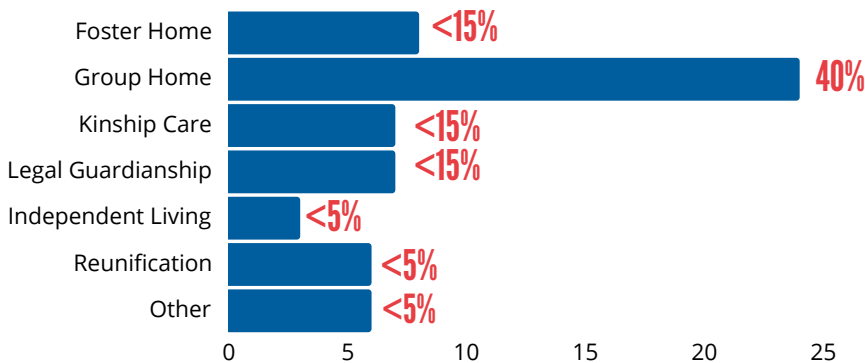
GENDER



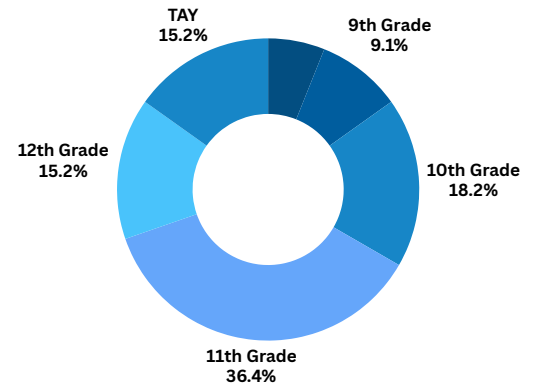
RACE AND ETHNICITY



PLACEMENT STATUS



GRADE LEVEL



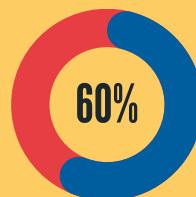
Celebrating Class of 2024



of First Star ASU scholars graduated High School on time!



of First Star ASU graduates are pursuing post-secondary opportunities.



of First Star ASU graduates will attend ASU in the fall!

FIRST STAR ASU IMPACT

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



LIFE SKILLS AND SELF DISCOVERY

The Program's Life Skills Programming highlight offered students essential practical skills for daily living through interactive and engaging sessions. Scholars learned valuable lessons in credit building, time management, and effective communication, which are critical for their personal and professional development. The hands-on activities like and real-world applications provided a strong foundation for independent living and future success.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The program's Health and Well-Being highlight emphasized the importance of physical and mental wellness through a series of engaging activities and informative sessions. Scholars enjoyed fitness workshops like yoga and skateboarding, mindfulness practices, and round-robin basketball and volleyball, all designed to promote holistic health.



CAREER EXPLORATION

The Career Exploration Programming highlight offered students invaluable insights into various career paths through interactive workshops such as communications and public speaking, ASU Pipeline program presentations, and hands-on activities. Scholars engaged with industry experts, fostering a deeper understanding of potential career opportunities and the skills required for success.

LEADERSHIP AND SELF ADVOCACY

The Program's Leadership and Advocacy Programming highlight empowered students with essential leadership skills and advocacy tools through dynamic workshops and interactive sessions. Participants engaged in activities that fostered critical thinking, effective communication, and strategic planning during 1 on 1 and small group sessions, preparing them to become proactive leaders in their schools and communities. Another highlight emphasized the importance of advocacy, teaching scholars how to effectively voice their concerns and drive positive change. This focus on leadership and advocacy significantly enhanced the scholars' confidence and capability to influence their future and their communities positively.



COLLEGE READINESS

The College Readiness Programming highlight offered the scholars immersive workshops like College 101, speed dating with professionals from various career fields, financial literacy, professional attire, and campus life, scholars gained invaluable insights and practical skills to navigate their academic futures. The program's dynamic college tours of the College of Law and the Cronkite School of Journalism, coupled with personalized guidance from university youth coaches and peer mentors, significantly boosted the scholars' confidence and preparedness for college success.

FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY

BRIGHT FUTURES AHEAD

The National Bright Futures Survey was developed in partnership with Dr. Philip Hong from the University of Georgia to better understand our scholars' hopes and aspirations as it relates to their academic and future goals. In creating this survey and collecting feedback from scholars, we are embracing the challenge young people face and how we can be better stewards of their emotions and feelings as we support their growth in our Academies!

80%

of First Star scholars are feeling hopeful about the future and expect to complete further education after high school!



70%

of scholars feel a sense of belonging and connection since joining First Star!



70%

of scholars are confident that they have the necessary skills to succeed in college since joining First Star!

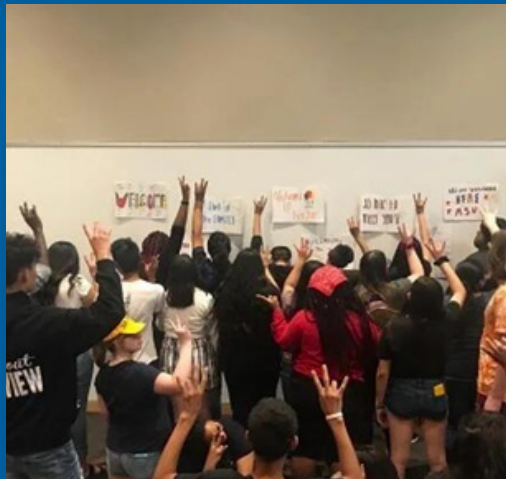
SUMMER ACADEMY

Summer Residential Program Dates: Sunday June 2nd to Saturday June 22, 2024

Summer Academy Showcase: Friday, June 21st 2024



SAC PODCAST LESSON PLAN



College Readiness Courses



Campus Tours

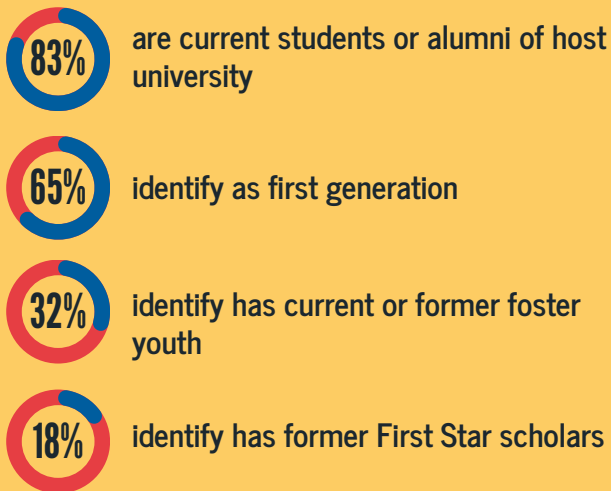
FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY

COMMUNITY IMPACT



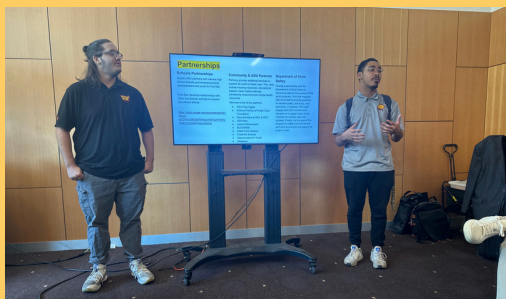
Peer Mentor Recognition

First Star recognizes the positive impact peer mentors have on our scholars. The First Star ASU Academy awarded two peer mentors this summer for their years of service and unwavering support of the academy.



Community Engagement

The ASU Academy partners with Bridging Success on campus for peer mentor support and professional development opportunities for alumni.



Caregiver Engagement

First Star ASUU Academy hosted Caregiver Orientations and other engagement events on campus during the school year.

Caregivers at ASU Academy receive monthly check-ins on their scholar's participation in the program and are involved in their student's academic case management meetings.



Foster Care Awareness Month Advocacy

ASU hosts an annual caregiver conference and open house in partnership with stakeholders in the community!



FIRST STAR ASU ACADEMY

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Community Stakeholder Acknowledgments

Academy Programming Partners

Maricopa Community Colleges' Bridge to Success Program
Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation
ASU TRIO-Upward Bound Program
ASU Bridging Success Program

Scholar Recruitment Partners

Maricopa Unified School District
Arizona Department of Child Safety
CASA of Maricopa County
Catholic Charities

Funding Acknowledgements

Arizona Department of Education

First Star ASU Academy featured on HOP SKIP DRIVE blog post on their transportation services!



A First Star Thank You to ASU for hosting the First Star 2023 National Conference last fall!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED



REFER A STUDENT.



VOLUNTEER.



DONATE.