

CSU SAN BERNARDINO FIRST STAR ACADEMY

2024

IMPACT REPORT



ABOUT FIRST STAR CSUSB ACADEMY



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


CSU San Bernardino Office of Pre-College Programs


With nine different programs within our department, we provide services to more than 5,000 students from San Bernardino, Rialto, and Colton Joint Unified School districts and students in the Coachella Valley. Our programs are designed to help provide participants and their families with educational and personal support services that will increase high school graduation, college enrollment, persistence and college completion.

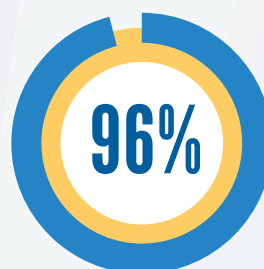
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 **Website:** www.csusb.edu/first-star-academy

 **Instagram:** @firststarcsusb



**HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
COMPLETION**

COMPARED TO 50% NATIONALLY



FIRST STAR CSUSB ACADEMY IN THE SPOTLIGHT



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

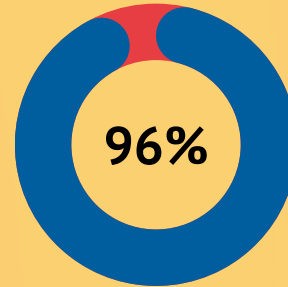
 **REFER A STUDENT**



NATIONAL FIRST STAR CLASS OF 2024

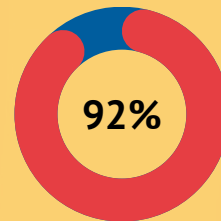


National Graduating Class



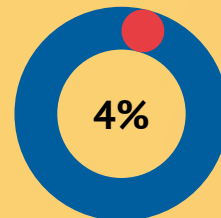
H.S. Diploma: 96%
Credit Recovery: 4%

Post-Secondary Pathways



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

Workforce Pathways



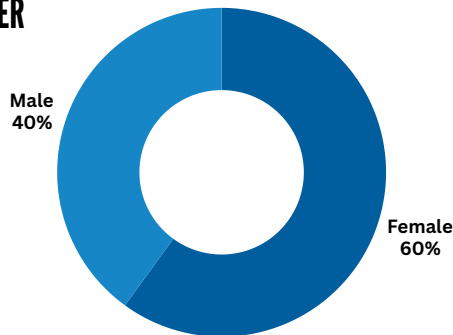
Apprenticeship/Union: 0%
Full-Time Employment: 4%
Military: 0%



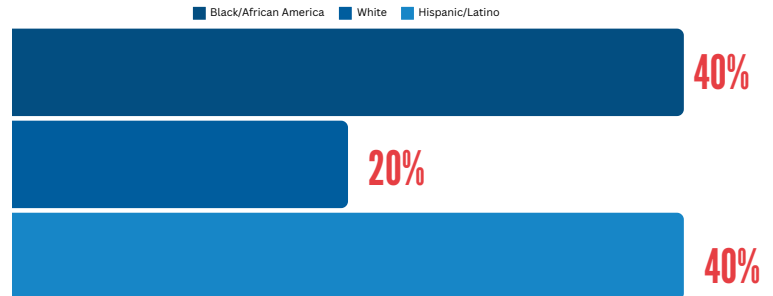
FIRST STAR CSUSB ACADEMY

SCHOLAR PROFILE

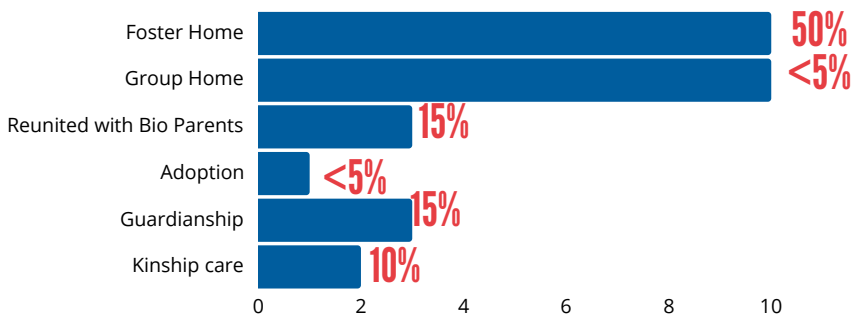
GENDER



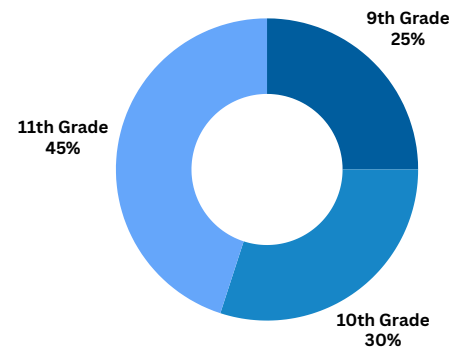
RACE AND ETHNICITY



PLACEMENT STATUS



GRADE LEVEL



CSUSB CAL-SOAP & First Star Academy

Summer Collaboration at UCR
with CSU San Bernardino Cal-Soap students
and First Star scholars!

100%

of First Star CSUSB scholars were recruited at Cal-Soap High School sites in San Bernardino County

100%

of First Star CSUSB scholars received academic and college advising via Cal-Soap advisors during the 2023-2024 school year



A Program of the California Student Aid Commission

FIRST STAR CSUSB IMPACT

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



LIFE SKILLS AND SELF DISCOVERY

- Students participated in a financial literacy workshop with David Friedman, co-founder of Realicore Real Estate and co-founder of Viva La Boba, and a community activist for under-represented local entrepreneurs. Additionally, students participated in a Bite of Reality workshop with Thinkwise Credit Union, which provided them with an opportunity to make real-world decisions regarding money, budgeting and time-management.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Scholars practiced seated meditation
- Scholars worked together in the Courage Miller Partners Challenge Course to better understand teamwork through physical challenges
- Staff and scholars hosted Family Circles each day to discuss issues relevant to the foster youth experience to build community



CAREER EXPLORATION

- The theme of Summer Academy 2024 was business and entrepreneurship. Although many students may not have an interest in this career, many of the workshops and speaking engagements included themes that positively impacted student development in general, including building your brand, building your vision, setting SMART goals, understanding and conveying your values, working as a team, and leadership development.

LEADERSHIP AND SELF ADVOCACY

- The students participated in a storytelling and writing workshop with the Plus Me Project, which prepares students for writing personal statements, responses to personal inquiry questions, and scholarship applications. Although it is primarily to prepare students for the college application process, but the workshops are rooted primarily in Social Emotional Learning, exploring themes such as self-advocacy, building insight and self-awareness, developing strengths and areas of development, communication, and building community.



COLLEGE READINESS

- Summer Academy 2024 was hosted at UC Riverside, which provided students with an immersive college experience, including a campus tour, workshops/activities held in college classrooms and lecture halls, residing in the dorms, and dining in the student commons. Students received an overview of the CSU application, the UC application and the Common Application. As part of the closing ceremony, students and parents/caregivers received an overview of financial aid and the FAFSA/CADAA.

FIRST STAR CSUSB 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 23rd to Thursday June 27th, 2024

Campus Location: UC Riverside in partnership with Cal-Soap



Developing SMART Goals



Plus Me Writing Workshop



Guardian Scholars Campus Tour

FIRST STAR CSUSB ACADEMY

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



SAN BERNARDINO CITY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Making Hope Happen



Community Stakeholder Acknowledgments

Academy Programming Partners

UCR Guardian Scholars
CSUSB Cal-Soap
UCR Residential Life

Scholar Recruitment Partners

San Bernardino County School Districts

Apple Valley Unified
Barstow Unified
Hesperia Unified
Oro Grande Unified
Snowline Unified
Victor Valley Unified
Morongo Unified
Rialto Unified
Upland Unified
Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified
San Bernardino City Unified

Funding Acknowledgements

First Star
San Bernardino School District
BEIS -in Kind donation



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



REFER A STUDENT.



VOLUNTEER.



DONATE.