



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

FIRST STAR ACADEMY

2024

IMPACT REPORT






ABOUT THE FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY



UNIVERSITY OF UTAH OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT | UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The University of Utah First Star Academy is a four-year education program within the Office of Engagement that improves educational outcomes for youth in foster care in Utah. First Star scholars create community, explore passions, build on talents and overcome systemic barriers to achieve educational success.

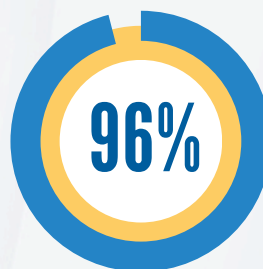
Academy Director: Jerry Stott

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-  **Phone Number:** 801-581-3235
-  **Website:** www.firststar.utah.edu
-  **Instagram:** @firststaruofu



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**

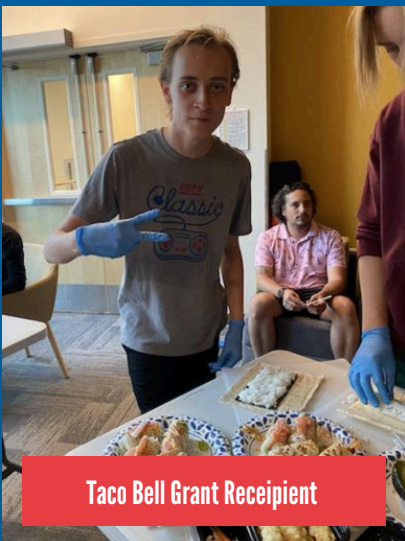
COMPARED TO 50% NATIONALLY



FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Utah Attorney General's Office
Conference



Taco Bell Grant Recipient

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

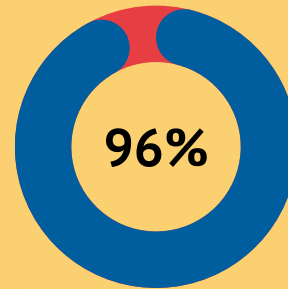
 **REFER A STUDENT**



NATIONAL FIRST STAR CLASS OF 2024

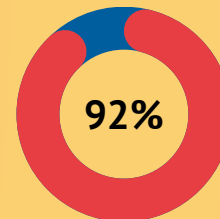


National Graduating Class



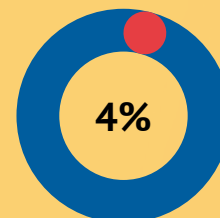
H.S Diploma: 96%
Credit Recovery: 4%

Post-Secondary Pathways



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

Workforce Pathways



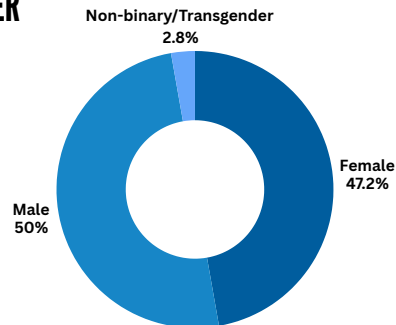
Apprenticeship/Union: 0%
Full-Time Employment: 4%
Military: 0%



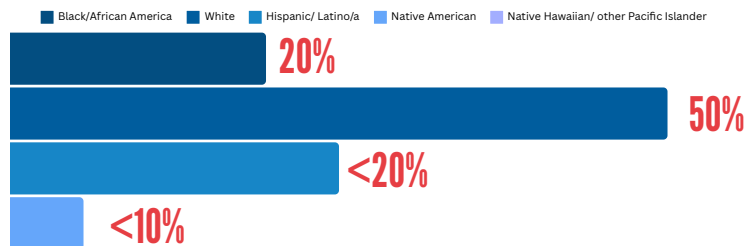
FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY

SCHOLAR PROFILE

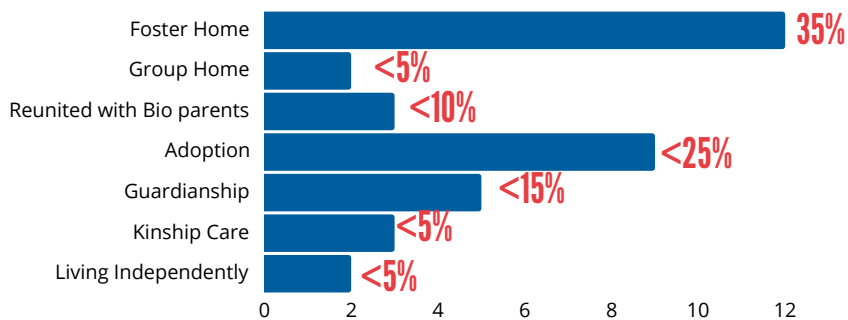
GENDER



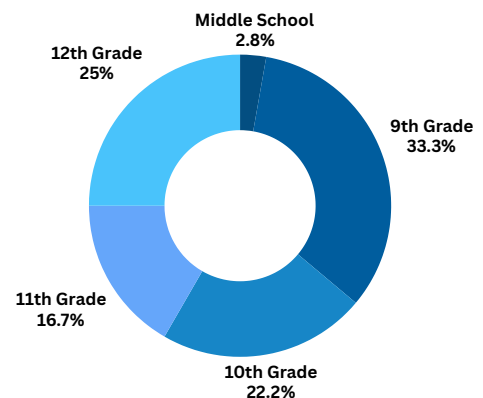
RACE AND ETHNICITY



PLACEMENT STATUS



GRADE LEVEL



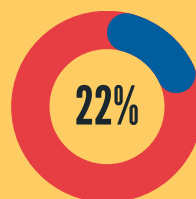
Celebrating Class of 2024



of First Star U.U scholars graduated High School on time!



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



of First Star U.U graduates will attend U.U in the fall!

FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

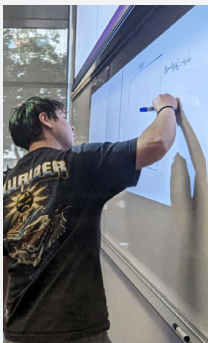


LIFE SKILLS AND SELF DISCOVERY

- As part of an ongoing relationship with Utah Planned Parenthood, our youth were able to participate in workshops relating to consent, boundaries, healthy relationships, and effective communication.
- Scholars were also able to learn from peer mentors, including how to thrift shop and sew/hem clothing and how to cook nearly a dozen different meals.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- This summer, students worked with OG Therapy to learn Social Health skills twice weekly. In these group sessions, students worked on building new relationships and improving existing ones. These sessions pushed students to express themselves and learn how to express vulnerability and happiness in healthy ways.
- Students also spent time with the National Abilities Center in Park City, Utah. Here, students explored a variety of outdoor activities and learned about different bodies and abilities across life-long activities.



CAREER EXPLORATION

All participating First Star scholars were able to work with the University of Utah Career Services center for career exploration activities. This included potential careers, pathways to those careers, and aptitude evaluations. Additionally, seniors were able to work with our community partners at the 1999 collective to learn more about trade school and other workforce-centered opportunities for those transitioning out of care. These students were able to complete resumes, cover letters, and learn about various career paths from those former foster youth.

LEADERSHIP AND SELF ADVOCACY

- As one of the summer workshops, our youth worked with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts as a collaboration for their upcoming art exhibition "Interwoven: Social Transformation Through Art and Community." This project involved First Star Students expressing individual and collective identities through poetry and quilting, resulting in a community patchwork to be displayed in the museum this Fall.



COLLEGE READINESS

- While living on the University of Utah campus, students were able to tour campus, see university resources, and participate in workshops/courses designed to introduce college. These included tours of campus, workshops with campus entities, and living a "college life" while in camp.
- Students were able to use the student dining halls, student union resources, the library, and transportation to get a snapshot of what their time would be like at the University. Additionally, seniors were able to participate in weekly course presented by our community partner at the 1999 collective, including choosing majors, selecting colleges, and life after care.

FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH IMPACT

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!



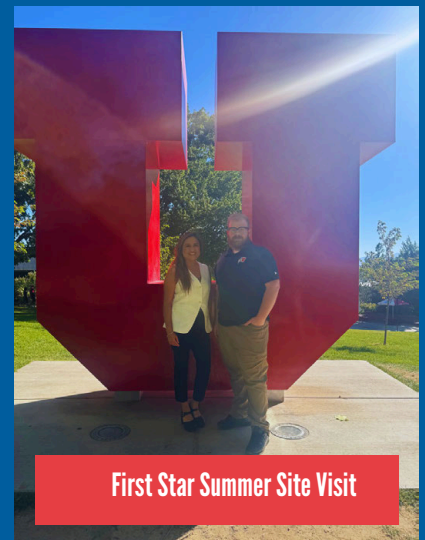
70%

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 23 to Friday July 19, 2024

Summer Academy Showcase: Sunday July 19th, 2024



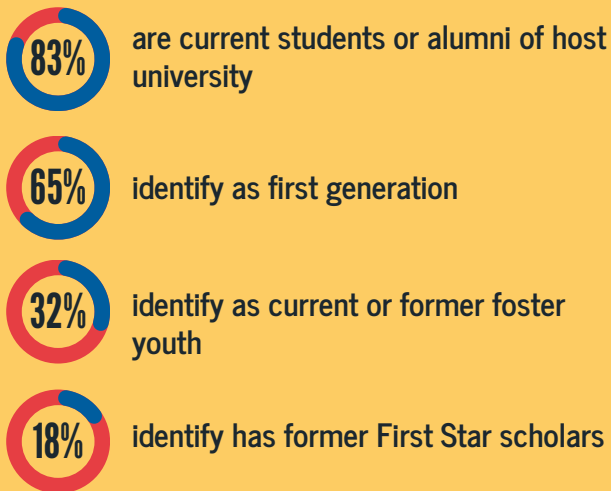
FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY

COMMUNITY IMPACT



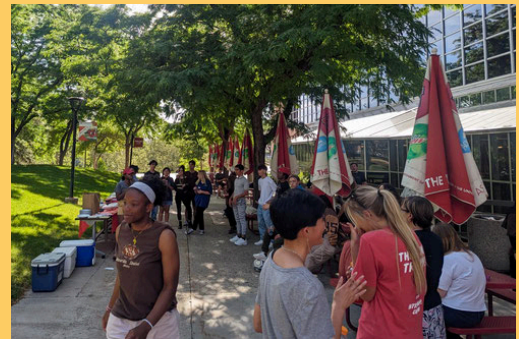
Peer Mentor Recognition

First Star recognizes the positive impact peer mentos have on our scholars. The First Star U.U Academy awarded one peer mentor this summer for their years of service and unwavering support of the academy.



Caregiver Engagement

Prior to the start of Summer Academy, the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs gave the University of Utah Foster Youth Futures program a financial gift to be used for our annual caregiver orientation. We were able to use this to hold a public event for that included an overview of First Star summer programing, food, games, and a campus tour with students, caregivers, friends, and family.



Foster Care Awareness Month Advocacy

In the Spring of 2024, First Star Academy at the University of Utah was asked to present the keynote address for the Utah Attorney General's Office Conference for Child Protection. Following a presentation of the Academy Model and outcomes, First Star scholars and alumni participated in a panel discussion facilitated by the 1999 Collective to share their lived experience.



FIRST STAR UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ACADEMY

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY
SERVICES



Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Child and Family Services

Community Stakeholder Acknowledgments

Academy Programming Partners

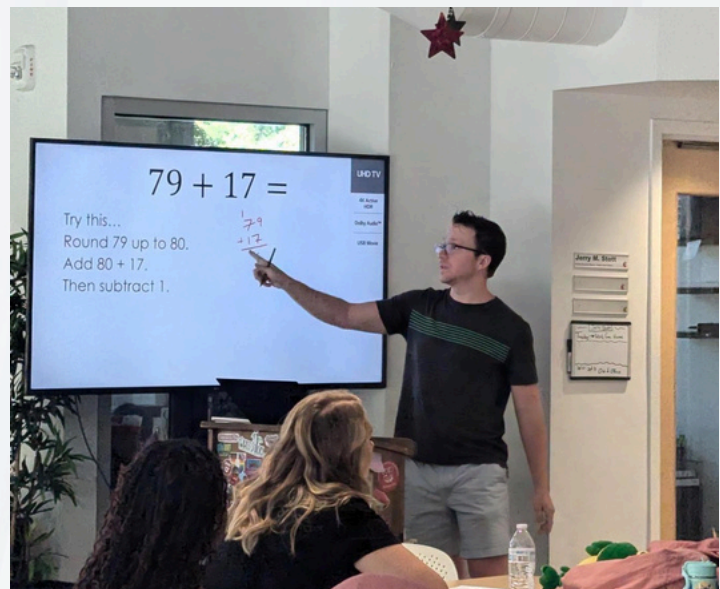
1999 Collective
OG Therapy
National Ability Center
Planned Parenthood of Utah
University of Utah Career Services
Building Up Youth
Informal Science Education Enhancement Organization

Scholar Recruitment Partners

Catholic Community Services
Utah Division of Child and Family Services
Utah State Board of Education
Ute Indian Tribe Education Department

Funding Acknowledgements

Taco Bell Foundation
Utah Juvenile Justice-Youth Services
Utah Division of Children and Family Services
BEIS-in kind Donation
Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs



HOW TO GET INVOLVED



REFER A STUDENT.



VOLUNTEER.



DONATE.