



FIRST STAR IMPACT REPORT 2025



**first
star**
putting students first

OUR 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.



OUR 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.

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



Dear Friends,

For 25 years, First Star has stood on a simple but profound belief: that youth in foster care deserve not just hope, but opportunity, belonging, and a pathway to thrive. When we launched our Academy Model, the goal was bold, to place youth in foster care on a university campus and surround them with love, guidance, and stability. That idea has grown into an evidence-informed, trauma-responsive model built on positive youth development, long-term relationships, and a continuum of care that follows our scholars from high school into adulthood. Today, 98% of our scholars graduate from high school and 90% pursue postsecondary education.

This work is not abstract. It is deeply personal. It lives in every Saturday Academy, every summer residential, every court date we attend alongside our scholars, every crisis and every celebration. It lives in every barrier shattered and every dream pursued against the odds.

This past year brought us alumni whose stories capture exactly why this work matters. Alex rebuilt his life after losing everything in the Eaton fires, earned his AA this summer, and is now at UC Santa Barbara on a full scholarship. Desiree joined First Star as a seventh grader, stayed through high school, graduated from Montclair State University, returned as a peer mentor, and now serves as our Alumni Program Assistant, a full circle leader in every sense. To every alum carrying that light forward: you show those who follow what is possible.

First Star's impact lives through four core pillars: Academies, building long-term, cohort-based communities on college campuses; Alumni Services, extending support through mentorship, microgrants, and connection because graduation is not the finish line; STEAM, opening doors to innovation and future-ready careers; and Coalition Building, including the Foster Youth Pre-College Collective, driving systems change because equity requires advocacy.

None of this happens without you. Our university partners, child welfare leaders, donors, board members, staff, volunteers, and friends are not spectators to this mission, you are co-authors of every success story. Because of you, young people once overlooked are now college graduates, musicians, paramedics, educators, policy advocates, social workers, and entrepreneurs. Leaders.

As we look toward the future, we are exploring new ways to expand our programs and reach even more scholars. Together, we can build a future where college and career success for youth in foster care is not rare, but routine. Where belonging replaces survival. Where expectations replace exceptions.

Thank you for believing in First Star. Thank you for standing with us. Here's to the years behind us, and to every star yet to rise.

Lyndsey C. Wilson

Lyndsey C. Wilson MA
CEO, First Star, Inc.



WE MAKE LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE



First Star highlights the power of community and connectedness in creating change. The First Star Academy program centers academics as a pathway into achievement, and achievement is impossible without the uplift and support of community.



10 FIRST STAR
ACADEMIES ACROSS
THE NATION

SERVING
OVER
3000
SCHOLARS SINCE
INCEPTION

ACTIVELY
SERVING
367
ALUMNI



OUR ACADEMY PROGRAM

WE INVEST IN EDUCATIONAL ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

First Star’s Academies are long-term college-prep programs for high school students in foster care that includes immersive residential summers on a university campus and monthly sessions during each school year. 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 support needed by students in foster care. Our innovation lies in our holistic model embedded within a university community that also supports self-determination, social and interpersonal skills, career preparation and advocacy.

COMPARED TO LAST YEAR, THE CLASS OF 2025 HAD AN:



2% Increase in scholars who graduated high school



4% Increase in vocational school enrollment



IN 2025,
98%

OF FIRST STAR SCHOLARS
GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL

KEY ELEMENTS OF A FIRST STAR ACADEMY

ACADEMY PROGRAM

4 year college preparatory program for youth in foster care focused on academics and life skills

VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Weekly mentoring and tutoring sessions, as well as an open environment to connect and build community through virtual hangouts

CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

Seminars and workshops that provide tools to caregivers to become advocates for their youth

SUMMER ACADEMY

Immersive residential enrichment program on a university campus focused on building academic, life skills, and healthy relationships

Oh, the Places They'll Go

Some of the colleges and universities our recent alumni were accepted to:

Arizona State University
Bowie State University
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
CSU Los Angeles
CSU Northridge
CSU Sacramento State
CSU San Bernardino
CSU Humboldt
Fairmont State University
Florida State University

Howard University
Illinois Central College
Illinois State University
Kent State University
Loyola Marymount University
Morehouse College
Northern Arizona University
Old Dominion University
Rowan University
San Francisco State

Southern Utah University
UCLA
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Miami
University of Utah
Utah State University

We are very excited to announce that 30% of our 2024-2025 chose to attend their host University!

2025 FIRST STAR ACADEMIES



First Star Arizona State University Academy

Phoenix, AZ



Rachel Kist,
Academy Director



First Star CSU San Bernardino Academy

San Bernardino, CA



Kurt Manio,
Academy Director



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

First Star Illinois State University Academy

Normal, IL



Tameka
Thompson,
Academy Director



First Star Kent State University Academy

Kent, OH



Danielle Green-
Welch,
Academy
Director



First Star KVC West Virginia Academy

Charleston, WV



Tiffany Dixon,
Academy
Director



First Star Old Dominion University Academy

Norfolk, VA



Melvin Roy,
Academy
Director



First Star Sacramento State Academy

Sacramento, CA

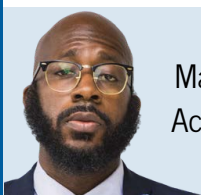


Latrice
Madkins,
Academy
Director



First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy

Los Angeles, CA



Markeith Royster,
Academy Director



First Star University of Miami Academy

Miami, FL

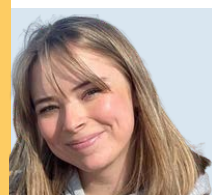


Maria Pia
De Castro,
Academy Director



First Star University of Utah Academy

Salt Lake City, UT



Mara Zenger,
Program
Coordinator

FIRST STAR PEER MENTORS

THE 2025 NATIONAL FIRST STAR PEER MENTOR AWARD

First Star recognizes not only the profound impact Peer Mentors have on our scholars, but also how our Academies empower these mentors through meaningful leadership and professional development opportunities. In October 2025, the First Star National Team proudly presented the 2025 **National First Star Peer Mentor Award** to **Kayla Murillo**, in recognition of her extraordinary dedication, compassion, and leadership.



"We have been trained to believe that family are the people we are related to. First Star has transformed the definition of family into a concept of choice, the choice of being surrounded by people who are rooting for you, who love you and show up for you as if you were their own, who will stay no matter how difficult things get."

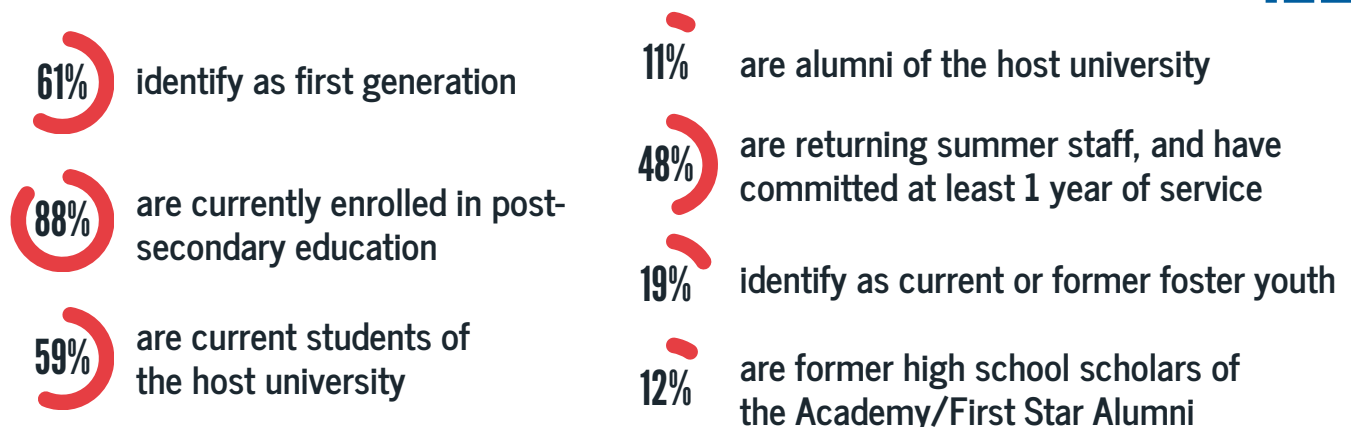
Kayla Murillo

First Star BGSA
4 years of service

Kayla Murillo's journey with the First Star Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy (BGSA) began her freshman year at UCLA as a volunteer. She quickly stepped into leadership as a peer mentor and later served as Summer Coordinator for two years, remaining a steadfast advocate for foster youth throughout her college career. A proud first-generation Latina, former foster youth, and daughter of immigrants, Kayla graduated from UCLA this year with a double major in Sociology and Chicana Studies. This fall, Kayla will continue her education at the University of Southern California, pursuing a Master's in Nonprofit Leadership and Management to deepen her impact in supporting youth in care.

NUMBER OF PEER MENTORS FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR AND SUMMER ACADEMY: 122

PEER MENTOR STATISTICS

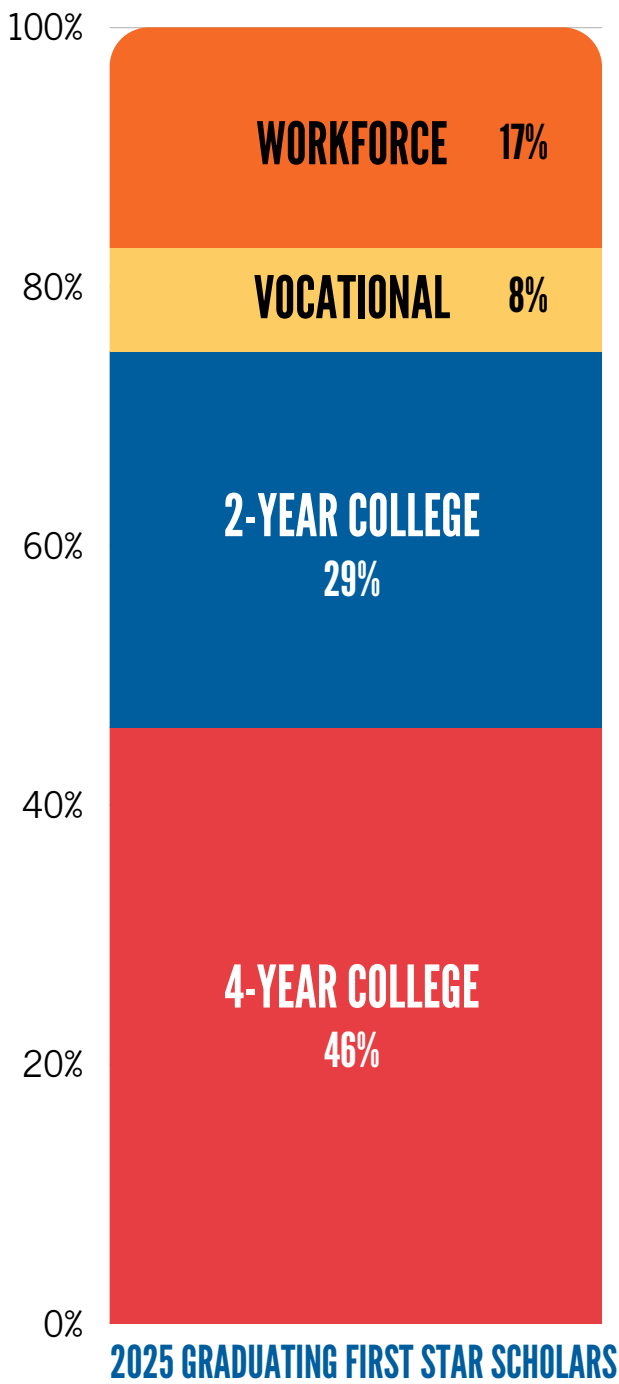


2025 FIRST STAR SCHOLAR GRADUATION REPORT

2025 SCHOLAR OUTCOMES

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PATHWAYS

Of the scholars who graduated in June of 2025, 83% enrolled in post-secondary education. Post-secondary education includes universities and colleges, as well as trade and vocational schools. 17% of 2025 graduating First Star scholars did not enroll in higher education and instead joined the workforce.



FIRST STAR VS. NATIONAL OUTCOMES

98%
graduated from high school in June 2025 compared to **50%** of foster youth nationwide

83%
are pursuing higher education compared to **10%** of foster youth nationwide

46%
are pursuing higher education by enrolling in four year colleges



Source: National Foster Youth Institute, Higher Education for Foster Youth, <https://nfyi.org/issues/higher-education/>
Source: Child Trends analysis of data from the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS), made available through the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

OUR ALUMNI PROGRAM

WE INVEST IN CONTINUED SUCCESS

The continued success mindset is why community, belonging, and long-term relationships are central to First Star programs.

We hope to be a family our scholars rely on while in the program and after they graduate.

The Alumni Program is an extended First Star family for our high-school graduates, a resource connecting our alumni throughout the country via social media, newsletters, reunions, and more. Our goal is to remain connected with alumni to ensure they have access to resources and the First Star network as they transition into adulthood, career, and advanced education.

A growing network of alumni from our Academies - we've seen a consistent increase in enrollment with new members enrolled from all First Star graduating classes since 2015.

The Program partners with over 10 organizations to provide direct service and resources including micro-grants, laptops, financial literacy courses, mentorship, internships, and more. 100% of the 2025 graduating class enrolled in the Alumni Program!

We connect youth with scholarship opportunities, jobs, internships and professional development. Our Alumni program assistant is herself a First Star Alumnus and alumni representation has been added to the board with two voting members and two ex-officio members who help represent and advocate for youth in care as we refine our programs and set our strategies. Our goal is not simply to keep foster youth in post-secondary education, but to equip them with the tools they need to succeed.

“

First Star has always been there for me. I'm extremely happy to wake up every day realizing that people are rooting for me and I'm rooting for myself.

”

100%

of the 2025 graduating class enrolled in the Alumni Program

79%

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

22%

of peer mentors are First Star Alumni

“

This Alumni grant will help me significantly at a difficult time when I need help. Because of First Star, I feel more hopeful about my situation. I am and will always be grateful for the prpgram.

Anneth H. ISU Class of 2023

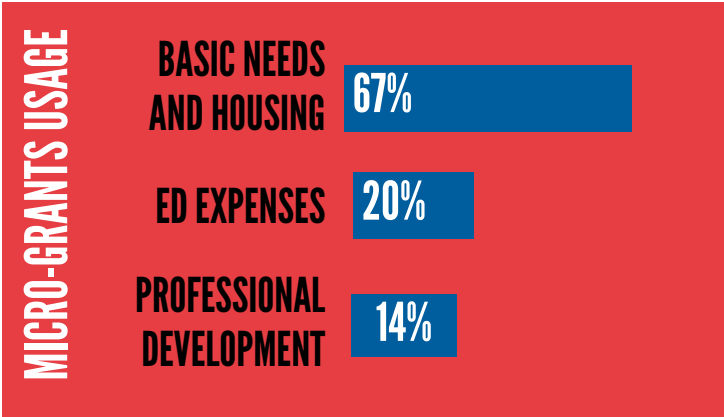


ALUMNI PROGRAM MICRO-GRANTS

”

Alumni Program Micro-Grants support scholars and alumni who experience resource barriers as they pursue their post-secondary goals. Micro-grants are awarded for educational expenses, professional development, basic needs, and technology. Through the Alumni Program, our grantees receive free financial literacy courses from Mana Money School.

IN 2025, ALUMNI REQUESTED AND RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE ALUMNI MICRO-GRANTS PROGRAM MEETING THESE NEEDS:



TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED TO ALUMNI: \$60,702

2025 ANNUAL EVENTS

The Alumni Program hosts an annual award ceremony and family reunion to celebrate the achievements of our alumni. The May 2025 Alumni Awards Show awarded our largest graduating senior class and almost 25 Alumni during our annual community celebration.



“

College hasn’t been easy and knowing that I’m supported like this keeps me motivated. This micro-grant from the alumni program will help me get essential items that are difficult to pay for. Thank you!

-Zarreon Carter class of 2024

”

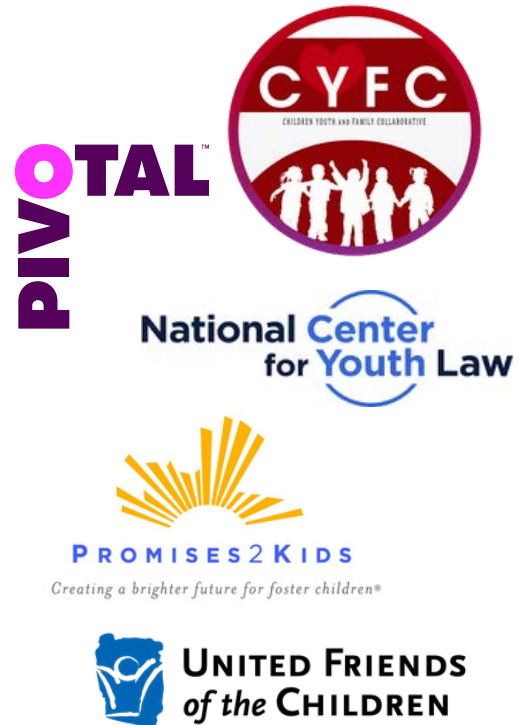
OUR COALITION BUILDING

WE INVEST IN COLLABORATION



First Star leads a coalition of six California nonprofits called the Foster Youth Pre-College Collective (tFYPC). tFYPC's mission is to ensure youth in care have access to meaningful and engaging educational support programming grounded in best practices and focused on achieving high school graduation and post-secondary matriculation rates that match or exceed those of their peers in the general population.

tFYPC's Destination Graduation Report was released in 2024. The report outlines the persistent challenges facing youth in foster care, shares reflections about their educational journeys, reviews prior attempts to address issues, and proposes collaborative solutions to close the opportunity gap for this high-needs student population.



On March 26, 2025 members of The Foster Youth Pre-College Collective gathered in Sacramento for our inaugural Advocacy Day to highlight the specific educational needs of California's youth in foster care. The collective met with 15 lawmakers to share the Collective's vision and discuss how our programs empower system-involved young people to reach "Destination Graduation" and prepare for their futures. Staff and alumni from the First Star BGSA at UCLA had the incredible opportunity to provide a public comment in support of the Governor's May Revision request to fund First Star Academies at UC campuses!

CALIFORNIA FOSTER YOUTH EDUCATION SUMMIT

First Star's Director of Academy Engagement, Karina Garcia-Lopez, had the honor of presenting at the California Foster Youth Education Summit alongside inspiring young adults with lived experience from the UCLA BGSA Academy and Ashley Matysiak from Pivotal as part of the The Foster Youth Pre-College Collective.



2025 BRILLIANCE AWARD

KURT MANIO

CSU SAN BERNARDINO ACADEMY - 7 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kurt Manio joined the First Star network in 2018, launching the first Summer Academy at California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB). In 2022, he proudly graduated the academy's first cohort of 20 scholars, marking a milestone for the program and the students it serves. Since then, Kurt has advanced to serve as Associate Director of Cal-SOAP, where he leads college access programs for other vulnerable student populations across the region. Under his leadership, the First Star Academy at CSUSB has expanded its reach and sustainability, continuing to provide transformative opportunities for foster youth pursuing higher education.





CREATION CONFERENCE

On April 26, 2025, First Star hosted the Creation Conference, "Heroes Rising: Creating Your Story, Your Power," our first-ever national gathering designed to ignite the dreams of high school scholars in foster care.



Held at UCLA and livestreamed to Academies across the country, the one-day event brought scholars together around three core tenets: inspiration, empowerment, and resources. Highlights included a keynote from resilience and leadership speaker Kevon Lee, a glimpse into the future from Singularity University's Aaron Vaccaro, and an interactive storytelling workshop led by the showrunner and cast of Marvel's Runaways. Scholars also connected with LA County Youth Commissioners, took part in movement breaks and networking games, and heard from First Star Ambassador and singer-songwriter DREION. More than a conference, it was a message to every scholar watching, in person or online: your story is still being written.



FIRST STAR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

First Star's in-person programming for 2025 was varied and exciting for our scholars across the country. We focused on practical skill-building and career paths!



First Star ASU scholars engaged in a series of skill-building workshops, youth strengthened their personal and interpersonal development. The Budgeting and Financial Literacy course, provided by the Arizona Council on Economic Education (ACEE), equipped participants with essential money management skills, helping them create personal budgets and make informed financial decisions. The Boundaries: Creating and Communicating workshop supported youth in establishing healthy limits and communicating them effectively to promote self-respect and well-being. Additionally, the Conflict Resolution workshop enhanced participants' ability to navigate disagreements constructively, fostering stronger relationships and collaboration among peers.

Scholars also took part in the Resilience: How to Overcome workshop and a Foster Youth Rights and Self-Advocacy session led by DCS Peer Mentors, gaining valuable tools to navigate challenges and advocate for themselves. Additionally, they participated in the "Sweet 16: Credits for College/GPA Matters" workshop, led by a school counselor from Mesa Unified School District and former foster parent, and engaged in a Personal Statement Development course facilitated by the ASU Nina Scholars Leadership team. They also had field trips to ASU's Marston Theatre for a 3D Space Show and tour of the museum and labs, a visit to Cerreta's Candy Factory, and a tour of ASU's Downtown Campus and Maricopa County Community College's South Mountain Campus.



First Star CSU San Bernardino Academy scholars participated in a four-day "Building a Healthier You" workshop with Dr. Nicole Arkadie that promoted physical and mental well-being. In addition, lead staff member Shannon Ryan facilitated two SEL workshops. Students also went to a business and entrepreneurship speaking series with local entrepreneurs. CSUSB Campus Engagement included a two-week residential stay in the Coyote Village dorms, a tour of USC, and a four-day Storytelling and Writing Workshop.





First Star Illinois State University Academy scholars enjoyed many activities such as motivational speakers, a spa night, empowerment workshops, goal-planning, and leadership seminars. During the H.E.R.O.S. Program, Mentors and Scholars talked about academic and professional goals and learning more about Scholars' chosen fields.



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY



First Star Kent State Academy students completed the LifeSkills Reimagined (LSR) web-based curriculum. Students participated in résumé-writing workshops and completed a career exploration with the Department of Career Exploration & Development. Scholars also engaged in business etiquette sessions led by community partner Charm Your Way.

In addition, First Star Ambassador DREION visited the academy to share his personal journey of overcoming trauma and using music as a tool for healing and advocacy. Scholars also went to a one-day film school where they created short films. They took part in an inspiring workshop led by "Da GoalGetta" Jamar Blackmon, focused on self-advocacy. Scholars also participated in workshops focused on academic planning and goal-setting, along with interactive sessions at the Design Innovation Hub and the College of Aeronautics. Lastly, students toured the Kent State Fashion Museum.



KVC West Virginia scholars completed immersion experiences such as costume design with Fairmont State University's Academy for the Arts and meeting with a game developer for video game design. In addition, all scholars completed a food handler's safety course. Scholars also engaged in meditation, personal exploration, outdoor challenges, and a storytelling workshop. They also were able to have an on campus stay at Fairmont State University.



First Star Old Dominion University hosted a variety of learning and community service experiences. Scholars previewed The Game of ChaNJE to gain practical insights into money management. In partnership with Easter Seals, they participated in cooking and communication workshops. Vision Driven 757 introduced scholars to real estate careers. Scholars showcased their creativity with their culminating Photovoice IRB project, highlighting their unique perspectives and talents, and took an active leadership role in the Talent Show. Scholars also proudly represented the ODU First Star Academy in the ODU Homecoming Parade. In addition, scholars toured campus with the president of Foster-U and took part in a lunch-and-learn session with the Digital Builders, to learn applications of AI tools.



First Star University of Miami Academy students participated in health and well-being workshops, worksite shadow days across a variety of occupations, and public speaking workshops. Through the Summer Youth Internship Program, students got work experience. They were also able to have hands-on learning with FIU athletic training staff. First Star UM Academy scholars serve on the Citrus Youth Advisory Council to further develop their leadership abilities. Through our comprehensive college readiness programming, scholars strengthened academic foundations and got a five-day, four-night college tour across eight Florida colleges and universities, and also explored the state capitol and local housing options.



First Star University of Utah scholars worked with the University of Utah Career Services Center to explore potential careers, pathways, and complete aptitude evaluations. Additionally, seniors worked with our community partners at the 1999 Collective to learn about trade schools/workforce-focused opportunities. Scholars also participated in diplomacy, financial literacy, and OG Therapy workshops. While living on the University of Utah campus, students explored university resources and participated in workshops designed to introduce them to college life.



First Star Sac State Academy scholars expanded their horizons through hands-on career experiences, including the PIXAR Digital Art and Design class, the Carlsen Center entrepreneurship workshop, and the Armstead Academic Project with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Scholars strengthened their leadership and advocacy skills through social justice workshops during the Juneteenth Celebration. Scholars also visited the Foster Youth Museum to share stories and gain inspiration from peers, and toured the Project Rebound Program, enhanced by a presentation from Guardian Scholars, to learn how advocacy and support systems can open pathways to success. They earned their food handler's license while practicing cooking skills and learning about nutrition, and engaged in fitness activities such as hiking, swimming, and mindfulness walks at the Gateway Mountain Retreat. Opportunities for stress relief included a sound bath meditation, dance workshop led by Javy's U Jam, and water-based activities at Velocity Water Park.



First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian scholars visited the UCLA campus, envisioning themselves in a college setting and touring the Bruin Resource Center to learn about programs that support student success. These experiences strengthened scholars' readiness for college applications and helped them imagine their future in higher education. Additionally, Uprooted joined multiple times over the summer to lead online modules, guide college exploration, support students in starting personal statements, and assist with selecting potential majors. During Summer Academy, we hosted numerous Possibility Talks featuring professionals from a variety of career pathways. Scholars participated in multiple workshops and activities focused on mental health and wellness, and engaged in group discussions on stress management and self-care. Twinspire joined us for a day to host a financial literacy workshop, where scholars learned how to manage money and achieve their financial goals. They were also introduced to another nonprofit organization they can turn to for support. During Saturday Academies, scholars continued building life skills through additional financial literacy workshops and public speaking activities led by Youth Coaches.

UCLA

FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

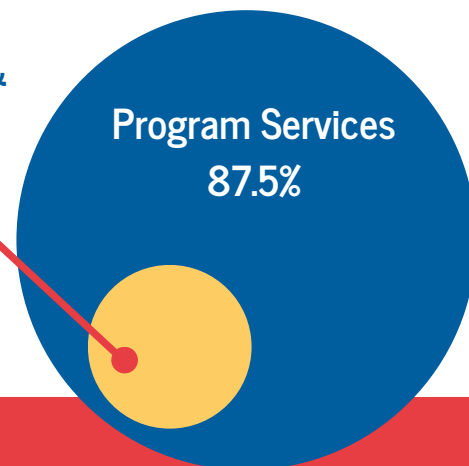
WE APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

Expenses

Fiscal Year 2025

For the sixth consecutive year, First Star has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator and a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (previously GuideStar). Thank you for trusting us with your donations, your time, and your goodwill.

Management &
Fundraising
12.5%



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS 2024 & 2025 INDIVIDUAL DONORS, FOUNDATIONS & COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

\$250,000 +

CG Charitable
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

\$100,000- \$249,999

Angell Foundation
Children's Trust*
Citrus Health Network*

Rob Horwitz and Catherine Redlich
Julian Grace Foundation
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Resonance Philanthropies
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Annenberg Foundation
Bill & Deirdre Catuzzi
Educate Tomorrow *
Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation
Los Angeles DCFS*
Manitou Fund
Sam Simon Charitable Giving Foundation
Norfolk Department of Human Services*
S. Mark Taper Foundation
May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust*
Steward Family Foundation
Taco Bell Foundation
Wurwand Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
All Within My Hands Foundation
American Honda Motor Co.
The Audrey Irmas Foundation For Social Justice
Batchelor Foundation
Chao Family Foundation
The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption*
Jay Paul Deratany
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Green Foundation
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
Leeds Family Foundation*
Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe *
Our Little Light Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation *

The Gene & Maxine Rosenfeld
Family Foundation
Vince & Jacklen Thompson
Steward Family Foundation

\$5,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
David Beugen
Change Reaction
Edison International
Glen & Elizabeth Freidman
Glenda G. Morgan Charitable
Foundation *
Brian Gray
Judith & Bruce Hackett
The Herman Foundation
Johnny Carson Foundation
The Philip & Janice Levin Foundation
Major Taylor Cycling Club Los Angeles
Morton H. Meyerson Family Foundation
Michael and Lori Milken Family
Foundation
Diane and Ron Miller Charitable Fund
Joseph H. & Florence A. Roblee
Foundation
Sargent Family Fund
Stephanie Sperber
Thursday Nights

LEVERAGED FUNDING FOR FIRST STAR ACADEMY PROGRAMS

In addition to the financial support First Star has received directly over the past three years, our University partners have received millions of dollars in direct public funding to support their First Star Academy programs. These gifts include:



\$5.25M

in the California State budget to support First Star Academies within the University of California and California State University Systems

\$3M

in ESSER funds to the First Star ASU Academy.

\$2M

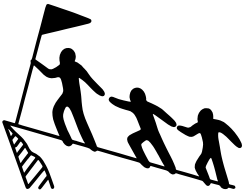
in annual investments from regional departments of child protective services partners, such as the City of Norfolk, Department of Child, Family and Adult Services, Sacramento and The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade County

\$1M

from the US Department of Education to support the First Star University of Utah Academy and the Impact Scholars program

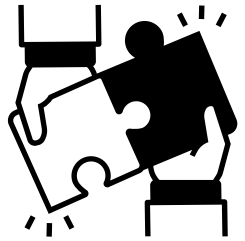


OUR CORE VALUES



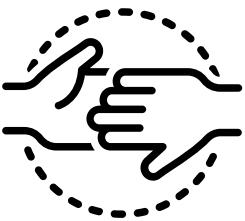
EMPOWERMENT

We believe in providing the freedom and tools that support successful progression towards individual and collective goals.



COLLABORATION

We build relationships to collectively work as a community to support our scholars. We know we cannot do this work alone, and therefore we depend on our partners.



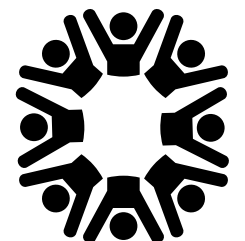
COMMITMENT

We are committed to achieving educational and early- adulthood success for youth in foster care. This is critical to inspire transformational change for our Network and scholars.



FAMILY

It takes a village to raise a child, and to that end we embrace the backgrounds and perspectives of all the individuals within the First Star Family. We foster a welcoming environment that honors and appreciates their individual experiences, beliefs, and values.



DIVERSITY

We strive to examine our own biases and privileges and the different voices from our community to focus on diversity, inclusivity, and equity. Every decision made with our stakeholders bears this in mind.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We embrace and integrate accountability into everything we do, individually and collectively, to honor our commitments to all stakeholders serving youth across the country who have experienced the foster care system.

FIRST STAR BOARD MEMBERS



Peter Samuelson

First Star President
& Co-Founder



Isael Andrade

First Star Alumnus



Alex Ballantyne

First Star Alumnus



Michael H. Cook

Liles Parker PLLC



Brian Gray, CPA

Gursey | Schneider LLP



Judy Hackett

Bryant Stibel



Philip Hong, PhD.

University of Georgia



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University of Texas, Austin



Stephanie Sperber

Lion Forge Entertainment



Vince Thompson

Middleshift

Lyndsey C. Wilson

First Star CEO

Robin Winston León

First Star COO

FIRST STAR TEAM MEMBERS



Lyndsey C. Wilson

Chief Executive Officer



Robin Winston León

Chief Operating Officer



Brian Ritchey

Sr. Director of Academy Partnerships



Ismael Soto

Sr. Director of
Development



Jennyann Gallo

Alumni Program
Manager



Karina García-López

Director of Academy
Engagement



Joshua Jones

Grants Manager
/Communications



Marquel Reid

Academy Engagement
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