Improving Postsecondary Education Success for Former Foster Youth

May 20, 2019
Welcome!

Kathy McDonald, MBA
Assistant Director for Network Partnerships

kmcdonald@FloridaCollegeAccess.org
Twitter: @kathy_mcdonald
Today’s Guest Presenter

Brett McNaught
CEO
Educate Tomorrow
mcnaught@EducateTomorrow.org
Today’s Guest Presenter

Paul Perrault, Ph.D.
Vice President of Research and Evaluation
Helios Education Foundation
pperault@helios.org
Questions & Conversation

• Submit your questions in the chat box

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  Twitter: @FLCollegeAccess
  @EducateTomorrow
  @HeliosEdFnd

#FCAN

This webinar is being recorded; all materials will be available within a week of recording
Florida College Access Network

Our mission: To create and strengthen a statewide network that catalyzes and supports communities to improve college and career readiness, access, and completion for all students

Our vision: At least 60% of working-age Floridians will hold a high-quality postsecondary degree or credential by the year 2025
Our Work

- Local College Access Networks (LCANs)
- Research & Policy
- Statewide Initiatives
Poll: What’s your biggest challenge in providing more support for former foster youth?
Creating Equitable Outcomes for Foster Youth: Exploring Florida’s Policies, Program and Practice

Brett McNaught
Chief Executive Officer
Educate Tomorrow

Paul Perrault, Ph.D.
VP of Research and Evaluation
Helios Education Foundation
Find the report at:

www.Helios.org
What we’ll cover

- Funder / Partner - Helios Education Foundation
- Who are we? / Who are you?
- What’s It All About?
- Key Statistics on Former Foster Youth
- Legislation and Policies Supporting Post-Secondary Opportunities for Former Foster Youth
- Current Promising Practices – Dedicated Programs
- Data Focus - Trends
- Recommendations to Improve Postsecondary Outcomes for Florida’s Foster Youth
What’s it all about?
Some Spring 2019 Graduates
Florida Legislation & Programs

Tuition and Fee Exemption

• Chapter 1009
• Students exempt from payment of tuition and fees, including lab fees
• Student in custody of the Department of Children and Families at age 18
• Placed in guardianship by court after age 16
• In custody of relative or non-relative
• Adopted from DCF after 1997
• Student who lacks a fixed, regular, adequate nighttime residence
• Good until age 28
Florida Legislation & Programs

Postsecondary Education Services and Support (PESS)

- High school / GED graduate
- Enrolled in postsecondary or vocational school
- Stipend of $1,256 for living expenses
- Up to age 23
- Must enroll in at least nine credit hours or vocational equivalent
Florida Legislation & Programs

Florida Statute 409.1452

The State University System of Florida and the Florida College System shall provide postsecondary educational campus coaching positions that will be integrated into FCS and SUS institutions general support services structure to provide current and former foster care children and young adults with dedicated, on campus-support.
About 1,000 per year

Number of Youth Turning 18 in Out of Home Care in Florida
2012-'13 - 2016-'17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012-'13</td>
<td>1,050</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013-'14</td>
<td>867</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-'15</td>
<td>934</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015-'16</td>
<td>944</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-'17</td>
<td>945</td>
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</table>

Source: DCF Independent Living Annual Report, 2017 & 2018
Dedicated University Programs for Students from Foster Care

Florida International University Fostering Panther Pride

Florida Atlantic University

Educate Tomorrow at Florida Atlantic University

Florida State University Unconquered Scholars

University of Central Florida Knight Alliance Network (KAN)
College Programs Dedicated to Students Using the Tuition Exemption

Tallahassee Community College Fostering Academic Achievement Fellows Program

Educate Tomorrow at Miami Dade College
Data Focus

1) How many students are receiving tuition and fee exemptions in Florida’s colleges and universities?

2) What are the racial/ethnic breakdowns of foster youth in Florida’s colleges and universities? And

3) What trends do we see in graduation of foster youth in Florida’s colleges and universities?
Consistent Increases in Enrollment

Students Using DCF Tuition Exemption at Florida Public Colleges and Universities

Public Colleges (Academic Year)

- '08-'09: 1100
- '09-'10: 1900
- '15-'16: 3537
- '16-'17: 3871

Public Universities (Fall Semester)

- 2013: 435
- 2014: 514
- 2015: 669
- 2016: 786
- 2017: 901
- 2018: 1145

Source: Florida College System, 2018
(No comparable data available for missing years)

Source: SUS Board of Governors, January, 2019
Consistent Increases in Graduations

**Figure 9**
Number of Associate's Degrees Earned by Florida College System Students Using DCF Tuition and Fee Exemption

- 2013-14: 13
- 2014-15: 77
- 2015-16: 94
- 2016-17: 99

**Figure 10**
Number of Bachelor's Degrees Earned by State University System of Florida Students Using Tuition and Fee Exemptions

- 2013-14: 45
- 2014-15: 89
- 2015-16: 94

## University Enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
<th>2017-2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida Agricultural &amp; Mechanical University</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Atlantic University</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Gulf Coast University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida International University</td>
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<td>143</td>
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<td>Florida Polytechnic University</td>
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<td>Florida State University</td>
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<td>96</td>
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<tr>
<td>New College of Florida</td>
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<td>University of Central Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Florida</td>
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<tr>
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<td>University of West Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>785</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broward College</td>
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<td>Florida State College at Jacksonville</td>
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<td>Hillsborough Community College</td>
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<td>Miami Dade College</td>
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<td>North Florida Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>College</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
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<td>Northwest Florida Community College</td>
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<td>Palm Beach State College</td>
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<td>State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota</td>
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<td>Tallahassee Community College</td>
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<td>Valencia College</td>
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<td>Florida College System Overall</td>
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Recommendations

• State policy leaders and institutions of higher education should ensure there is a dedicated coach for foster youth on each appropriate college and university campus.

• State policy leaders and institutions of higher education should collaborate to improve consistency around the processes and uses of the tuition and fees exemption and other policies.
Recommendations

• Institutions of higher education should create data systems that improve communication and support structures for college coaches.

• State policymakers should increase opportunities for a backbone organization to support institutions of higher education in supporting foster youth.

Contact Brett McNaught at mcnaught@educatetomorrow.org for more information.
Questions?

Brett McNaught  
CEO  
Educate Tomorrow  
mcnaught@EducateTomorrow.org

Paul Perrault, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Research & Evaluation  
Helios Education Foundation  
pperault@helios.org
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