



2021 IMPACT REPORT



Putting Students First

A letter from our CEO



Dear First Star Family,

We are beginning to see the signs of our new normal - one closer to our lives and experiences pre-pandemic with one significant twist, the ever-present effects of a new virtual, tech-reliant learning and social culture. [First Star](#) continues to weather this pandemic with our scholars, teammates, and supporters in mind, and with that, we accomplished more in 2021 by being agile, adaptive, and adoptive.

First Star stands on four key pillars - Academies for Foster Youth, Alumni Program, Virtual STEAM Program, and [Coalition Building](#). The strength of our organization lies in the incredible people that give of themselves to ensure youth in care across this nation, who have experienced loss or disruption to their family units, understand that their potential is just as brilliant and beautiful as their peers! Our academy directors and our national team lead with grit and agility, adapting to the virtual space without undermining the integrity of our mission. Our scholars [graduated high school](#) at a rate double the national average and continue to focus on post-secondary goals such as college enrollment, vocational training, career, and military.

"The Academy is an absolute game-changer. It not only sets you up for success, it sets you up for life. They gave me the opportunity to learn how to communicate and build relationships, advocate for change and growth, be a better student and friend, but most importantly, how to love life again. First Star gives you another chance in a world that doesn't always seem forgiving, a chance to be seen and heard, and to change the world one step at a time." - First Star University of Utah Scholar

[Our Alumni Program](#) grew substantially. We met the needs of every young adult that requested support due to the overwhelming pain and hurt the pandemic released on our most vulnerable communities. Our newly established micro-grant program gave out nearly \$16K in emergency assistance to over 50 alumni. Moreover, our newest addition to the organization, the National STEAM Academy, led by technology and grounded in social justice, touched the lives of over 650 youth across the country. [These foster youth explored STEAM topics](#) through a lens of empowerment and affirmation. We also expanded and diversified our Board of Directors with four new members, including an alumna of our First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy.

We collaborated with partners, allies, and stakeholders to realize new paths forward to ensure scholar and [alumni success](#). Our desire to impact change in our nation is highlighted by the partnerships we form to affect change on a broader scale. ['Possible Selves'](#), a documentary released this year, captures the lives of two First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy students as they progressed through First Star programming and embarked on a new world after graduation. We launched the California Foster Youth Pre-College Collective, which is committed to creating a public funding source to support high school graduation, post-secondary education, and career pathways for teenagers in foster care.

Our work, mission, and commitment to improving lives are significant, and each of us manages to accomplish our work with grace and humility. First Star will continue to strive to increase high school graduation rates across the nation and lead more young people in foster care towards post-secondary pathways. [Our indelible mark](#) is observable today and will always shine brightly in the [lives of the youth we touch!](#) I am honored to lead this organization and work alongside brilliant champions for change.

Here's to a transformative 2022!

Lyndsey C. Wilson

Lyndsey C. Wilson
CEO



PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

First Star works to uplift communities and create change by building strong pathways for hundreds of high school-age foster youth to post-secondary education and successful adult lives.

We partner with child welfare agencies, universities, and school districts to ensure foster youth have the academic, life skills, and adult supports needed to transition to higher education and adulthood successfully. We pursue our mission through innovative, university-based college-preparatory programs, providing technical assistance to stakeholders, and advocating for policy change.

“Today, there are an estimated 440,000 U.S. children in foster care. An overwhelming majority of these young people face abysmal prospects after leaving the foster care system. For example, only half graduate high school, fewer than 3 percent go on to earn a college degree, and more than half end up homeless, incarcerated, or on welfare within two years of aging out of care. First Star students have a chance to strengthen the skills they need to move on to higher education, employment, and productive adulthoods, all with the guidance and support of caring adult and peer mentors.”

- Peter Samuelson, First Star Co-Founder and President

The First Star Academies keep youth on track for high school graduation and prepare them for higher education and adulthood by providing specialized programming that address the academics, life skills, and necessary peer and adult supports unique to students in foster care.



OUR SCHOLARS AT A GLANCE

There are over 440,000 foster youth in the United States. Every year, 28,000 age out of the system unprepared for adulthood.

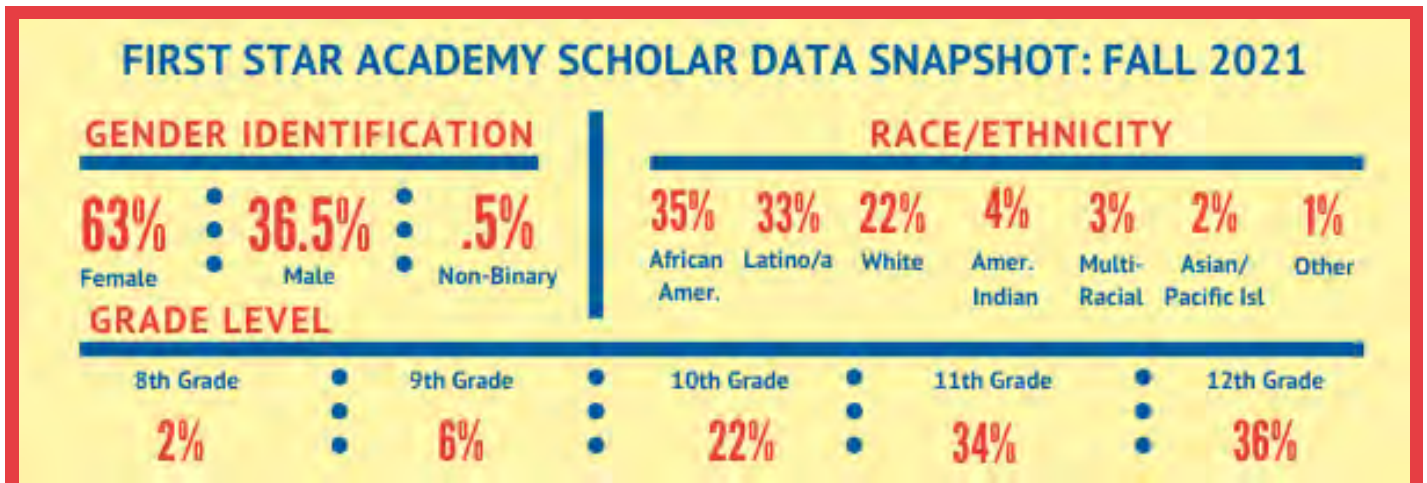
Statistically, outcomes for youth leaving the foster care system are characterized by low academic achievement, chronic unemployment, homelessness and incarceration. These painfully poor outcomes are almost guaranteed by widespread home and school instability, and the resulting revolving door of inconsistent adults who are not invested in the youths' futures.

First Star believes that higher education is one of the best ladders out of these desperate circumstances and into stable, supportive and nurturing environments.



Our Scholars

The First Star Academies are the only programs within their geographical regions that provide long-term academic and permanency support services and include multiple residential opportunities on a university campus. The First Star Academies serve hundreds of foster youth between the ages of 13-19. Nationally, First Star students come from a variety of backgrounds, reflecting the culture and diversity of each Academy's city or region.

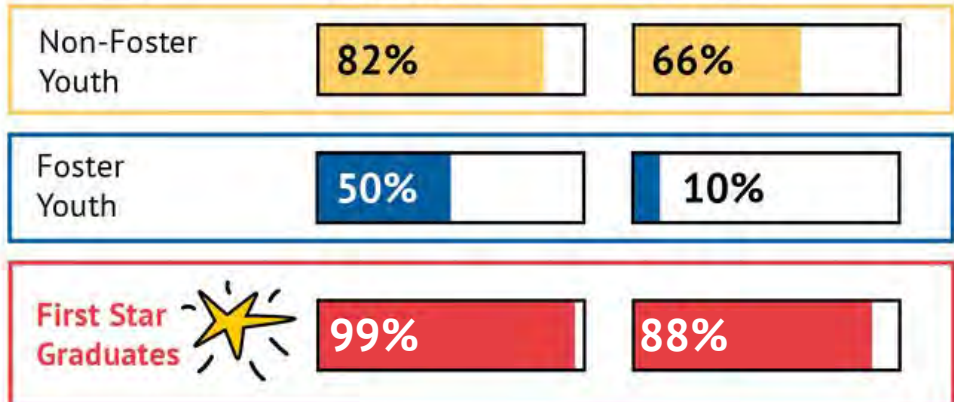


How First Star Scholars Compare



Graduate High School

Enter Higher Education



*Average over a six-year period

FIRST STAR ACADEMY PROGRAMMING



ACADEMY PROGRAM

4 year college preparatory program for foster youth 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

PEER MENTOR ENGAGEMENT

Peer mentors are comprised primarily of undergraduates at the host university, who are former foster youth or first generation college students

CAREGIVER ENGAGEMENT

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

SUMMER ACADEMY

Intensive 3-4 week residential enrichment program on a university campus

SCHOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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



Want more information?
Sign up with our [Scholar Interest Form](#).

2021 Graduating Class Report



FIRST STAR'S USE OF DATA ANALYTICS

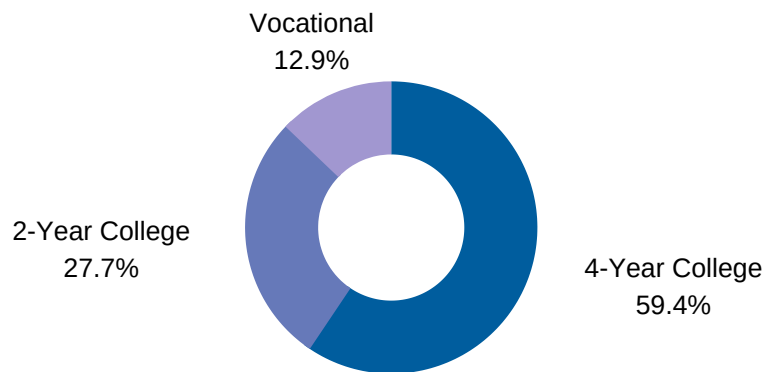
First Star recognizes the need to approach our academies and our growth through a data lens. Data analytics allows us to gain information to better support the academies and understand how the changing environment is impacting our scholars. First Star actively tracks senior data throughout the academic school year to ensure that all graduating scholars are supported and on track for high school graduation and enrollment into higher education.

2021 FIRST STAR SENIOR DATA

Data captured in June of 2021 showed that COVID did impact our outcomes; only 86% of First Star seniors graduated from high school in the spring.

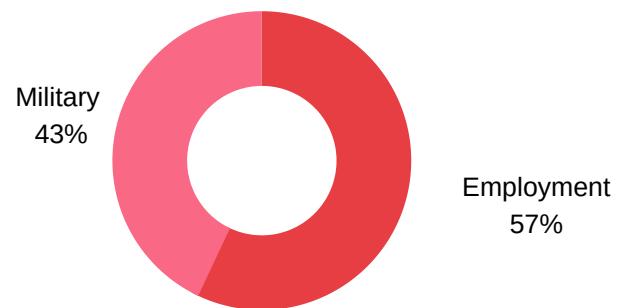
POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Of the First Star scholars who graduated in June of 2021, **93% enrolled in higher education**. First Star defines higher education as four-year and two-year colleges, in addition to vocational schools. **This is in comparison to just 10% for foster youth nationwide.**



NON POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Of the First Star scholars who graduated in June of 2021, 7% did not enroll in higher education. First Star takes a whole scholar approach, supporting youth and exploring options beyond two and four-year colleges. Our data includes scholars enlisting in the military and pursuing employment.



Remote COVID Year 2020-2021

86%

First Star scholars graduated from high school in June 2021 compared to **50%** of foster youth nationwide

80%

First Star scholars are pursuing higher education compared to **10%** of foster youth nationwide

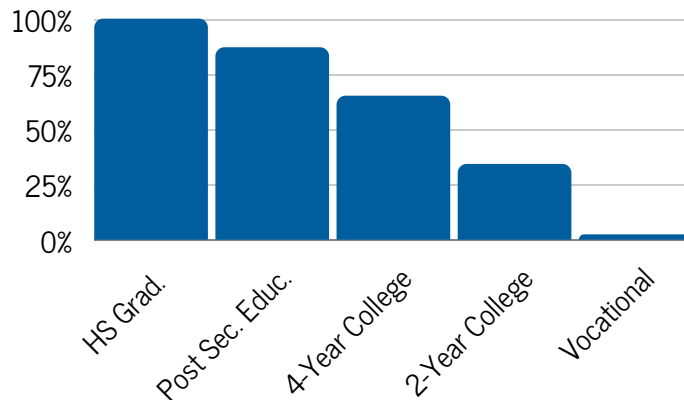
48%

First Star scholars are pursuing higher education by enrolling in four year colleges

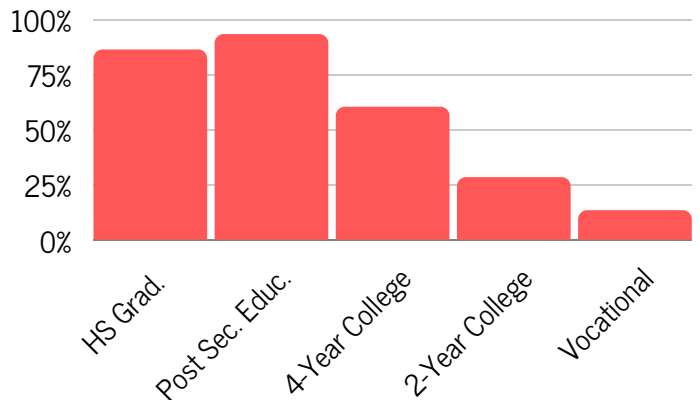
2020 & 2021 COMPARISON DATA

First Star compares scholar graduation data annually to measure progress and identify areas of growth to focus on during the following school year.

2019-2020



2020-2021



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

- Increase in the number of First Star scholars who are pursuing four-year colleges
- First Star continues to take a whole scholar approach, supporting youth and exploring options other than two and four-year colleges
- The impact of COVID led to an increase in the number of scholars who struggled academically to meet graduation requirements and are now pursuing GED programs, military and employment options instead of higher education

IMPACT OF COVID

The COVID pandemic and move to distance learning is exacerbating strained school engagement and learning disparities for students in foster care. We know that students in care are suffering due to the absence of suitable learning environments; lack of support from adults to navigate online learning, trauma, social isolation, and family stressors contribute to the burdens students are carrying. Student engagement and the real mental health challenges faced this past year have put a strain on each academy director and their perceptions of success for their programs. Data from the Wall Street Journal shows that graduation rates for teens have declined this year due to factors like difficulty focusing, trouble with at-home learning, and inability to process information. Additionally, teens are struggling with mental health. According to an April survey from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 18-to-24-year-olds responded with the highest levels of anxiety and depression of any age, with 62.9% reporting symptoms of one or both conditions.

Sources: [Wall Street Journal, Graduation Rate Expected to Stall This Year at Some High Schools, by Allison Pohle](#), [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anxiety and Depression - Household Pulse Survey](#).

Oh, the Places They'll Go

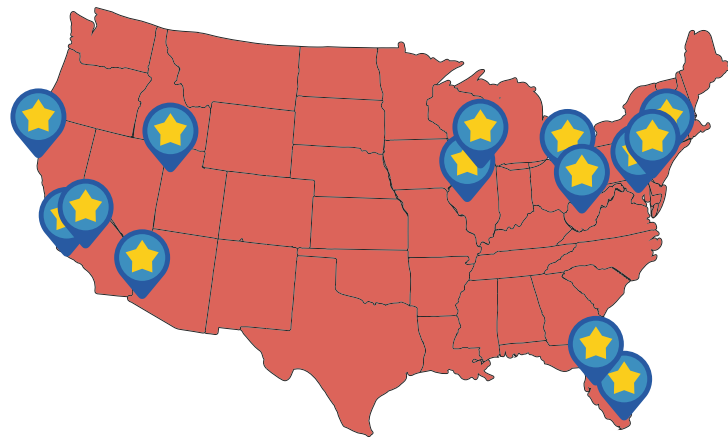
Some of the colleges and universities our recent alumni were accepted to:

Alabama A&M University
Arizona State University
Bowie State University
College of Staten Island
CSU Los Angeles
CSU San Bernardino
Delaware State University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida State University

Howard University
Illinois State University
Loyola Marymount University
Manhattan College
Morehouse College
Northern Arizona University
Paul Smith's College
Rollins College
Rowan University

Southern Utah University
UCLA
University of Central Florida
University of Florida
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Miami
University of Utah
Utah State University
Valparaiso University

2021 FIRST STAR ACADEMIES



First Star Arizona State University Academy, Phoenix, AZ

Paloma Delgado, Academy Director

First Star CSU San Bernardino Academy, San Bernardino, CA

Kurt Manio, Academy Director



First Star College of Staten Island Academy, Staten Island, NY

Senemeht Olatunji, Academy Director

First Star Illinois State University Academy, Normal, IL

Stacey Wiggins, Interim Academy Director



First Star Kent State University Academy, Kent, OH

Danielle Green-Welch, Academy Director

First Star KVC Academy, Charleston, WV

Walter Swoope, Academy Director



First Star Loyola University Chicago Academy, Chicago, IL

Bridget Couture, Academy Director

First Star Sacramento State Academy, Sacramento, CA

Linda Ram, Academy Director



UCLA

First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy, Los Angeles, CA

Karina Garcia, Academy Director

First Star University of Central Florida Academy, Orlando, FL

Dr. DeShawn Chapman, 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

Alexa Hudson, Academy Director



South Jersey First Star Collaborative at Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

Walter Kappeler, Academy Director

South Jersey First Star Collaborative at Rutgers University, Camden, NJ

Walter Kappeler, Academy Director



Academies in Formation at:

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
University of Missouri-Mizzou, Columbia, MO



COMING BACK TOGETHER

After a year of virtual programming, our scholars were thrilled to start coming back together in-person. The fun began over the summer, when many academies were able to take advantage of the warmer weather. By the fall, most academies had resumed in-person Saturday sessions!

First Star KVC West Virginia Academy Rafting Trip

As one of our newest academies, staff and scholars from the First Star KVC Academy in West Virginia, were able to gather together for the first time to embark on a day of whitewater rafting on the Lower New River in Lansing, WV. The action-packed day was the perfect way for our KVC Academy scholars and staff to finally meet each other in person, starting off their summer with leadership training and community building. First Star national team member Brian Ritchey was able to join the scholars, along with leadership from KVC. Along with other First Star swag, a partnership with TabletKiosk, provided each scholar with an 8-inch Android tablet. Go team KVC!



First Star South Jersey Collaborative Academy Summer Trips

Our **First Star SJ Collaborative Academy** had a combination of in-person and virtual engagements all summer long, including a family appreciation BBQ at Camp Edge, movie night, beach day, a cooking class at HopeLoft, an academy retreat at Niagara Falls, and a trip to Six Flags Great Adventure!



First Star Illinois State University Academy Goes Rock Climbing



Summer was in full bloom at the **First Star ISU Academy!** Scholars were mailed boxes at the beginning of their summer immersion program so they had all the materials they needed for exciting activities like planting an herb garden, virtual painting, and home chef cooking. They also ventured out to a local indoor rock climbing center!

First Star University of Miami Academy Racial Justice Grant & Career Day

Our First Star University of Miami Academy was a recipient of a Racial Justice Grant given out by The University of Miami as a commitment to invest in service-oriented initiatives, pursue equity locally, and find creative ways to address racial justice. They used the grant to host a student career day, bringing faculty and students from the engineering department, medical school, STEM, arts, pre-dental, business, track and field, pre-law, and members of the NAACP chapter. The five-hour event included a college application workshop, Black student life exploration presented by student organization leaders, and a career fair with representation in students' specific desired fields of study and professions.



Saturday In-Person Academies



Our **First Star ASU Academy** hosted a FAFSA workshop for their seniors, held career exploration sessions, and cheered on the Diamondbacks!



Our **First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy** threw a Halloween party, dressed up in costumes, and toured the UCLA campus. Celebrations continued through the end of the year, with a huge holiday party in December!



Our **First Star University of Utah Academy** scholars held monthly study sessions, toured a museum, went on a scavenger hunt, and even went ice-skating.



We look forward to all of our Academies getting to enjoy more in-person activities in 2022!

The Alumni Program is an extended First Star family for our high-school graduates. We are a resource program connecting throughout the country via social media, reunions, newsletters and more!

Our goal is to remain connected with Alumni and ensure they have access to the First Star Family network and resources as they transition into adulthood, careers, and advanced education.



ALUMNI PROGRAM

Micro-Grants

In response to the COVID pandemic, the Alumni Program initiated micro-grants. The First Star micro-grant's mission is to support scholars and alumni who experience resource barriers as they pursue their post-secondary goals. During the 2020-2021 academic year, we provided over **50 micro-grants and over \$16,000 to support our alumni** through unique challenges during their transition into adulthood. Resources were provided around:

- Professional Development
- Health & Wellness
- Education
- Technology
- Food Insecurity
- Transportation
- Housing
- Employment

I am confident the micro-grant I've received will allow me to succeed.

You're helping me stay on the right path.

THANK YOU!!

It brings me hope that there are still good people out there who will help someone get back up on their feet again.

ALUMNI SERVICES

- Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Informed Resources
- Annual Community Events
- Micro-Grants
- Professional Development Opportunities
- First Star National STEAM Academy Enrollment
- Scholar Advisory Committee Involvement
- Community Partnerships & more!

Annual Holiday Reunion

In December, Alumni from across the country came together for our Alumni Holiday Reunion. Alumni engaged in community, made new connections, and addressed ways to overcome the impacts of the current pandemic. The event was filled with activities, discussion of resources, and ended with a laptop raffle, where two alumni from the First Star University of Utah Academy and First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy walked away with new technology!



Alumni Spotlight



Throughout her time at the First Star University of Utah Academy, Kyla was a shining example of a First Star scholar. Always there for her fellow scholars, she took an active role in the First Star Student Advisory Committee and was interviewed by Jeff Probst during our 2020 Celebration, giving our scholars a voice on a national scale.

Kyla Colburn

2021 First Star Graduate
University of Utah Class of 2025

What are your current goals and what do you see yourself doing in the the future?

"I am currently studying social work/pre-law at The University of Utah and am also an advocate for youth in the Utah foster care system. In the future I would like to help foster youth in the same way I was helped, especially in the area of mental health awareness. Being an alumna makes me want to help other youth and get rid of the stigma that comes along with being a foster youth for anyone I come in contact with."

How has First Star changed and shaped your attitude towards life?

"You start to trust people. You start to understand other people's struggles. Every time I talk to anyone at First Star, I just feel welcomed and it's an experience that you just can't explain. I didn't know I wanted to be where I was until I felt safe. I couldn't dream until I felt enough security first. It's a tool that you can use to get to where you want to be."

What was the best part of being a First Star scholar?

"First star has made me feel like I really can do anything even when the world doesn't seem too kind to me. It really changes your perspective when you have a support system like First Star. I had some rough patches in high school, but made it through thanks to the help of First Star staff. You can't help but feel overjoyed when you have this support system that cares for you in a way that no one else can. You can smile and you can become a family with people you just met. First Star is a place where you can believe in yourself for the first time."



Bonus Babies Podcast
Change Reaction
Cultivating Success Fund
Foster Youth Education Fund
iFoster
Mana Money
Ready To Succeed



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

First Star National STEAM Academy



Led by technology.
Grounded in social justice.

In an effort to extend our reach outside of our traditional academy program, we created The First Star National STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Academy. The National STEAM Academy is a virtual college access program for foster youth led by technology and grounded in social justice.

The Academy aims to increase engagement in STEAM careers with a series of interactive "Tech Talks" led by prominent STEAM professionals, as well as the expansion of technology in driving learning opportunities for teens and young adults. The talks are curated to include culturally responsive content from professionals who have similar life experiences and/or backgrounds. This unique approach will assist with validating and affirming each participants' experiences and will empower each one to reach for the impossible.

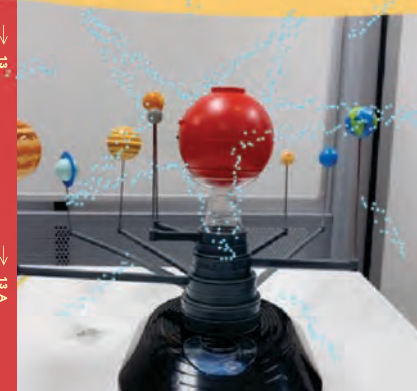
During June and July, the First Star National STEAM Academy engaged in-network scholars in artificial intelligence themed workshops with interactive builds of either animation machines or headphones.

Throughout the year, STEAM Academy peer mentors support students socio-emotionally and work with them to understand the educational opportunities in STEAM.



 www.FirstStar.org/STEAM

 STEAMacademy@FirstStar.org



13 A

FILM NEGATIVE



14 A

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14 A

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NATIONAL COLLABORATION



Collaborative Virtual Summer Academy

During the spring our academy directors came together to plan a joint virtual summer program that each academy could offer to their students. The week-long event was an opportunity for our students to take a variety of workshops, strengthen their team-building skills, and network with other First Star scholars from all across the country.



Daily Workshops Included:

- Me3 Tool: Virtual Career Exploration
- Financial Literacy
- NAF College & Career Readiness
- Social-Emotional Learning
- STEAM Drone Workshop
- Anime I
- Anime II
- Intro to Real Estate Development
- Digital Ads for Social Activism
- Safe Teen Violence Prevention
- Creative Writing
 - Poetry/Spoken Word
 - Fiction
- Alice Cooper Teen Center-Virtual Song Writing



FIRST STAR

2021 VIRTUAL SUMMER ACADEMY

2021 Virtual Summer Academy Credly Badge

All scholars who completed the virtual summer academy received the Credly badge that outlines skills and knowledge learned throughout the Summer Academy! It could also be used on college applications and LinkedIn profiles!

Scholar Advisory Committee

Our First Star Scholar Advisory Committee (SAC) hosted the first-ever Scholars' Voice Town Hall in January 2021. SAC is comprised of youth representing First Star academies from across the country, giving scholars the opportunity to freely share their ideas and opinions on a national level. The inaugural virtual town hall focused on justice & equity, racism in America and LGBTQ+ rights. The conversation featured a panel of experts engaged in healthy conversation with our scholars and talked about ways to move toward improvement. To top things off, [US Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio contributed a special message for our students.](#)

SCHOLARS' VOICE TOWN HALL

Participate in this year's town hall to discuss Equity and Justice, LGBTQ+ Rights, and Racism in America

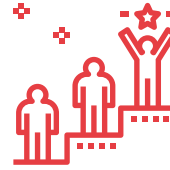


First Star Senior Bootcamp

Our First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy and CSU San Bernardino Academy teamed up for a special two-week virtual program for their rising high school seniors this summer. The LEVEL UP programming offered opportunities to learn about the college application process, financial aid and grant opportunities, introduced scholars to our First Star Alumni Program, and partnered with [The Plus Me Project](#) to tap into their storytelling skills. Our soon-to-be seniors walked away with powerful material for their personal college essays and are now equipped with the necessary tools for success during their senior year!

UCLA

*LevelUp to senior year...and
RAISE YOUR GAME!*



Academy Mentor & Staff Training

First Star offered a two-day training series to all academy directors and staff in June 2021. The training supported Academy staff in learning about trauma-informed practices, healthy boundaries, confidentiality, and how to best support academy scholars in their journey of resilience in virtual and in-person educational spaces. Through dialogue, experiential activities, and skill-building, participants learned applicable strategies that they can now apply in their personal and professional practice.



Nikita Gupta, MPH, CHES, RYT, integrated frameworks such as ACEs, growth mindset, resilience coaching, and mindfulness into the staff training. Key elements included practices that promoted engagement and connection to our scholars, tools to facilitate dialogue and authentic reflection, and adoption of skills to support greater mental health and well-being. Nikita followed up with a drop-in session that further expanded on how to support First Star scholars transitioning back to school.

Brian Ritchey, First Star's Director of Academy Engagement led two workshops, one on boundaries and the other on confidentiality, which touched on topics including foster youth privacy laws, mandatory reporting, and best practices for maintaining boundaries and discussing these topics with scholars.



National Back to Academies Virtual Symposium

Our First Star network, including academy staff and the national team, gathered in September for a half-day full of programmatic collaboration, best practices, lessons learned over the last year, and updates on what's to come for the organization. As we prepared for another unpredictable year, one thing was certain, the First Star family will be supporting each other along the way.

GO TEAM!



MORE NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating National Foster Care Month

Throughout the month of May, First Star highlighted the voices of our First Star alumni, bringing awareness to important issues, and showcasing the diversity and community within our First Star family. As part of our **Alumni Spotlight Series**, we interviewed First Star Alumni who were able to highlight many of the unexpected obstacles youth in foster care face as they navigate the system and eventually age out of care.

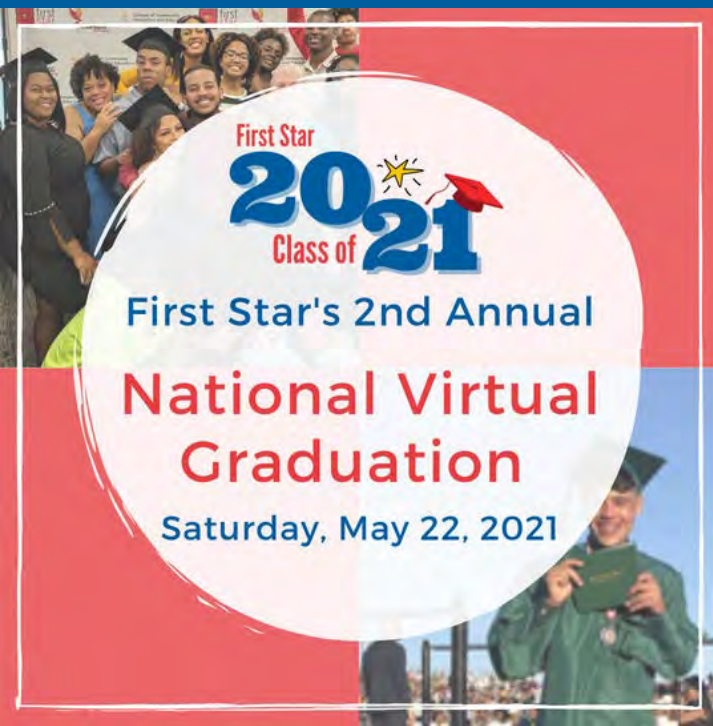


First Star's Scholar Advisory Committee Led the Charge During National Foster Care Month

The Scholar Advisory Committee launched a **Big 100 Campaign** which aimed to promote foster care awareness by getting 100 shares or likes for every post they created. Social content included posts raising awareness around foster care, highlighting child welfare reform, and each Wednesday of the month a **'Live on IGI'** talk with First Star Ambassadors and other community supporters. We are so proud of their hard work and thrilled we could help give them a larger platform to share their voices.



2021 Virtual Graduation Ceremony



In May 2021, First Star hosted our 2nd Annual National Virtual Graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021! The ceremony honored the perseverance and hard work of our graduating seniors. Despite the challenges of this past year, we are so proud of our **Class of 2021**, who graduated from **SEVEN Academies** across the country.

THANK YOU SHANE!!!
A huge thank you to First Star Ambassador, Shane Paul McGhie, for his generous contribution to the 2021 Virtual Graduation! Thanks to his support, all of our graduating seniors received their very own First Star graduation cap and gown!



CA Foster Youth Pre-College Collective

In early 2021 First Star began convening the **California Foster Youth Pre-College Collective** (Collective) to improve education engagement and achievement outcomes for high school-aged foster youth in California. The Collective represents eight organizations that are vision and mission aligned on academic success for teens in foster care. The Collective envisions creating a sustainable public funding source dedicated to providing all foster youth in California with the support they need to graduate from high school and successfully pursue progressive post-secondary educational and career development pathways aligned with their interests and goals. The Collective began by understanding the significance of its combined impact. Each member organization serves high school-aged foster youth who spend more time in the child welfare system than their younger peers. The mission of the Collective is to ensure foster youth across the state have access to meaningful, 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. The Collective is currently completing its blueprint proposal in preparation for the broader policy advocacy plan.

The California Foster Youth Pre-College Collective Partners



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY COLLABORATIVE



UNITED FRIENDS of the CHILDREN
Preparing Foster Youth for a Future That Works



Northern California Initiative

After the launch of our First Star Sacramento State Academy, we were grateful for the opportunity to expand our virtual services in the Northern California region to other high school and transition-aged youth. In addition to participating in our First Star National STEAM Academy programming, our Northern California scholars can also complete the Mana Money School financial course. We wouldn't be able to serve these incredible students without our amazing partners. We look forward to celebrating our newest First Star scholars' successes!



Inspiring Scholars
Butte College



IN THE NEWS

Our CEO, Lyndsey C. Wilson, lent her voice to the April 12th cover story in **TIME Magazine**, which served as a time capsule, capturing the difficulties young people face to finish high school and to go to college. The article highlights a First Star Miami scholar who shifted their sights from college to the workforce, shining a light on the struggle facing so many students as many make that difficult choice and the toll it could take on their futures.

[READ THE FULL ARTICLE.](#)



In December Lyndsey C. Wilson was featured on Fox 11 LA's show 'In Depth' with Hal Eisner. The show focused on 'Heroes in Foster Care' and highlighted the important work that First Star is doing to make sure that youth in care succeed in high school and thrive as they transition into adulthood. The segment also featured First Star Ambassador Devin Alexander's personal story of adoption through the foster care system.

[Watch the clip HERE.](#)



Lyndsey C. Wilson lent her voice to a news story about the state of the foster care system in the US.

[Watch the clip HERE.](#)



First Star President & Co-Founder, Peter Samuelson, received the [2021 APSAC Outstanding Media Coverage Award](#) for his exceptional work shining a light on child maltreatment issues.

Stay up to date on all our news at [firststar.org/news](https://www.firststar.org/news)

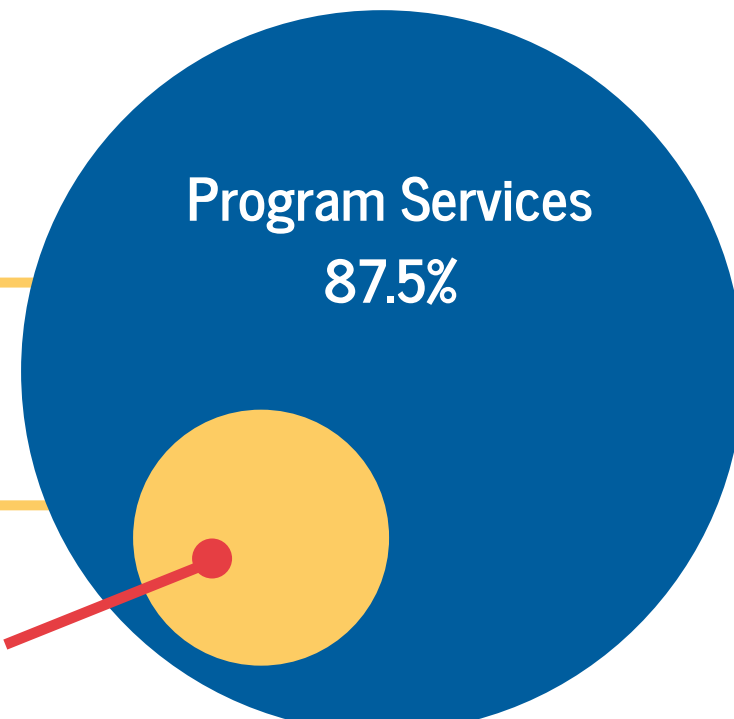
FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

Expenses

Fiscal Year 2021

Management & Fundraising
12.5%

Program Services
87.5%



THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS 2020 & 2021 INDIVIDUAL DONORS & FOUNDATIONS

\$250,000 +

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Pascale Sykes Foundation

\$100,000- \$249,999

ASU Women and Philanthropy *
Bill & Deirdre Catuzzi
CG Charitable Trust
Children's Trust *
Give Back Foundation *
Diane and Bruce Halle Foundation
Julian Grace Foundation
Jessica & Steve Sarowitz
Patrick J. McGovern Foundation
Walter S. Johnson Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Angell Foundation
Annenberg Foundation
Bryant Stibel
Educate Tomorrow *
May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust *

\$25,000-\$49,999

AT&T Foundation *
Batchelor Foundation
Braitmayer Foundation *
Jay Paul Deratany
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
Green Foundation
Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation
John Burton Advocates for Youth
Leeds Family Foundation*
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Our Kids of Miami-Dade and Monroe *
Our Little Light Foundation
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation *

\$5,000-\$24,999

Change Reaction
The Columbus Foundation
Cloud Family Foundation Fund
Craig H. Nielsen Foundation
Edison International
EIF – FosterMore

Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
Glen & Elizabeth Freidman
Jeanne Friedman
Glenda G. Morgan Charitable Foundation *
Brian Gray
Judith & Bruce Hackett
In-N-Out Burger Foundation
The Katz Family Foundation
Keith Haring Foundation
Louise & Herb Horvitz Charitable Fund
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