

**Finding Resources and Funding for  
Invisible Students:  
Resources to Support the Success of  
Foster Care and Homeless Alumni**

# Presenters

- **Sara I. Gamez**, Associate Director for Student Support & Equity Programs (SSEP), California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- **Robin Head**, Associate Vice President for Development, Texas Woman's University
- **Amy O'Keefe**, Executive Director of CARE (Campus Alliance for Resource Education), Texas Woman's University
- **Brenda Sweeten**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work & UNT Foster Care Liaison Officer, University of North Texas

# National Data on Homeless Youth

## 2013-14 national numbers

- 1,360,747 homeless children and youth enrolled in public schools
- 8% increase over the previous year
- 100% increase since 2006-07 recession
- 13% of all poor school-age children and youth
- 30% of all extremely poor school-age children and youth
- Over 90,000 unaccompanied homeless youth
- 58,000 college students marked homelessness on FAFSA

# Paths to Being on Their Own

- Family conflict: blended family issues, pregnancy, sexual activity or orientation, school problems, substance abuse
- Abuse and/or neglect within the home
- Parental incarceration, illness, hospitalization, or death
- Lack of space in temporary situations or shelter policies that prohibit adolescent boys

# National Data on Foster Youth

## National Numbers

- Approximately 415,000 children in foster care (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2016)
- Nearly 270,000 children in foster care are school-aged (U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2016)
- About 25,000 adolescents age out of foster care annually
- Over 70% aspire to go to college (Wolanin, 2005)
- About 20% enroll at a college or university (National Working Group of Foster Care and Education, 2014)
- Less than 3% earn a college degree (Salazar, 2016)

# The Facts of Foster Care

Foster care is a state-run child welfare system that provides alternate living situations to children whose parents are unable to provide adequate care.

A child enters care every 2 minutes in the US.

# Barriers to Higher Education

- Lack of access to parental financial information and support
- Lack of financial means to live independently and safely
- Inability to be financially self-sufficient once enrolled in college
- Limited housing options, especially in small towns or rural areas
- Struggling to balance school and other responsibilities
- Lack of adult guidance and support
- Lack of information about available support systems

# Promising Practices

## California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Renaissance Scholars

- First Year & Senior Seminar
  - Peer Mentoring
  - Financial Literacy
- Work opportunities
  - Peer Mentoring
  - Tutoring



# Promising Practices

## University of North Texas

- Campus Champions: Casey Family Programs Supporting Success Model
- PUSH (Persevere UNTil Success Happens)
  - Advocacy Efforts and Community Outreach
- PUSH Initiative Program
  - University Support and Collaboration
  - Community Champions
    - Community Organizations/Faith Community
    - Local Grants
    - Private Donors and Mentors

# Promising Practices

## Texas Woman's University

- Reduce barriers through campus connections
  - Housing
    - Supervised Independent Living (SIL)
    - waive fee
    - break & family housing
  - Financial Aid
    - full aid, common FAFSA errors
    - independent (McKinney-Vento or aged out of care)
    - emergency grants
- Frontiers Program
  - case management, dedicated space, food pantry
- Success for Future Student Organization

# Fundraising

## Support Starts Internally

- Understand your own organization's mission
- Understand your project's objectives
- Secure internal buy-in
- Who is your champion?
- Can you deliver?

# Fundraising

## Next Step Identify External Sources

- Research the funding source's mission/goals
- Determine if priorities align
- Check deadlines, documentation requirements
- Think Outside the Box

# Basic Components of Proposals

- Introduction
- Needs/Problem statement
- Project goals/objectives
- Methodology
- Evaluation
- Budget

# Other Areas of Emphasis

- Collaborative Impact
- Partnerships/In-Kind/Matching requirements
- Sustainability/Future funding sources
- Scalability/Replication

# Other Funding Possibilities

- Local Business
- Organizations
- Individuals
- Corporations
- Churches
- Alumni

# Working With Funders

- Contracts and Agreements
- Communication
- Reports
- Leveraging Results
- Celebrating Success
- Sharing Lessons Learned
- Evaluate



# Action Plan

## 1. Awareness

understand demographics

## 2. Resources

know resources

## 3. Access

evaluate strategies

# Q&A

## RESOURCES

NASPA Knowledge Community

**Socioeconomic and Class Issues in Higher Education (SCIHE)**

### **Foster:**

<https://www.casey.org/supporting-success/>

<http://www.cacollegepathways.org/>

<https://www.fosterclub.com/>

<http://www.fostercareandeducation.org/OurWork/NationalWorkingGroup.aspx>

<http://www.fostercarealumni.org/>

### **Homeless:**

[https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/insight/insight\\_2.pdf](https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/insight/insight_2.pdf)

<https://nche.ed.gov/>

<http://www.naehcy.org/>