

Fostering Transition: Developing a First Year Experience for Former Foster Youth

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Linkage to Education

Mission

We believe that
opening the door to a
college education
will help transform the lives of
high-risk youths

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History

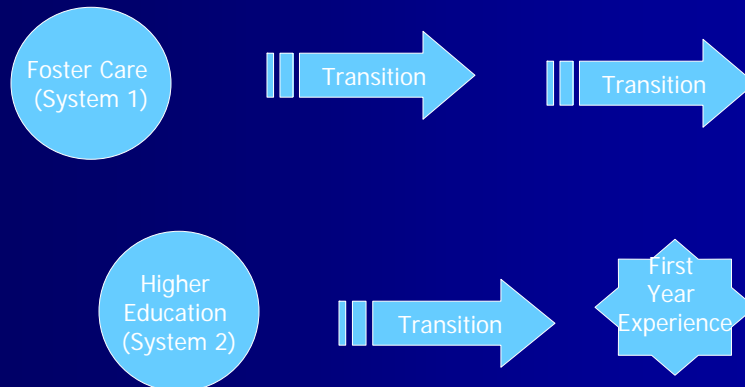
- Developed in 1988, is a non-profit that provides assistance to 17 & 18 year-old foster and probation youth
- Youth are exiting institutional custody and care into post-secondary education program
- Serves the Sacramento, CA area
- Provides on campus support services

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- Outcomes
 - Cost-effectively turns former dropouts, foster youth and juvenile offenders into college students who are pursuing positive goals
 - Changes the public perception as well as the self-perception of these students that they are college material
 - Strengthens the students ability to climb social/economical ladder with improved academics and upgraded training skills
 - Apply a realistic plan to help. These students who have never thought about the future answer the most basic questions, " what do you want to be when you grow up?"

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Magnification of the First Year Experience for Foster Youth



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Transition

- **With transition, the student's physical reality has changed**
 - Instigates cognitive dissonance
 - The student's internal world struggles with their objectification of and projection on the external
 - During this period, the student's pre-existing mental health issues are at risk for exacerbation
 - physiological, social and psychological dynamics will also be vulnerable

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Transition (continued)

- As the youth reaches college, he/she will have to endure another round of turmoil
 - This is more of a normalizing process experienced by all incoming freshman. However, for foster or probation youth who are unaware of their unique FYE process, this struggle may be the final straw.
 - Preparation in the pre-emancipation/release phase is critical for both transition and FYE.

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First Year Experience (FYE)

- When FYE is identified as part of a comprehensive outreach partnership:
 - youth know what to expect
 - youth does not automatically blame himself for his struggles
 - retention and transfer rates will improve

CME Society

History

- 2004, CME Society Founded
 - Connie L. Lurie, SJSU Alumnus and Philanthropist
 - Mary Male, Ph.D., SJSU Professor Emeritus, Special Education
 - Emily Bruce, Ph.D., SJSU Associate Professor, School of Social Work
- 2005, Director of CME Society
Connie Hernandez Robbins
- 2007, Educational Coordinator
Kahlila M. Liverpool



MUSE

Metropolitan University Scholar's Experience

- **MUSE a seminar developed by SJSU that focuses on the first year experience**
 - Specifically designed to help students transition into college
 - Helping students develop the skills and attitudes necessary to engage intellectually in and confront the challenges of in-depth university-level study

CME Society/MUSE

Collaboration for a former foster youth first year seminar

CME Society

- Educational Advising Appointments
- Educational Workshops
- Mid-semester grade check
- Connections to on & off campus resources
- Community

MUSE

- Personal Exploration
- Academic Exploration
- Career Exploration
- Campus resources
- Community

MUSE

General Education Component

- California State University
 - Meets the General Education requirement
 - Human Understanding & Development
 - Area E

MUSE

Learning Objectives

1. To recognize the physiological, social/cultural, & psychological influences on personal well-being
2. To recognize the interrelation of the physiological, social/cultural and psychological factors on their development
3. To use appropriate social skills to enhance learning and develop positive interpersonal relationships with diverse groups and individuals

MUSE

Learning Object (continued)

4. To recognize themselves as individuals undergoing a particular stage in human development
5. To understand the learning process and their responsibility in it
6. To know what it means to be a member of a metropolitan university community

CME Society/MUSE

Student Panel

MUSE

Guest Speakers Series



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