

2014 Education Reach for Texans

"Effectively Managing Finances & Resources: Money is no Object"



Presented by:

Loretta Edelen, Community Outreach Director, Foster Care Alumni Coordinator

Christopher Owens, Advising Supervisor, Campus Champion

Marshall Levett, Counselor, Campus Champion



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Foster Care Alumni



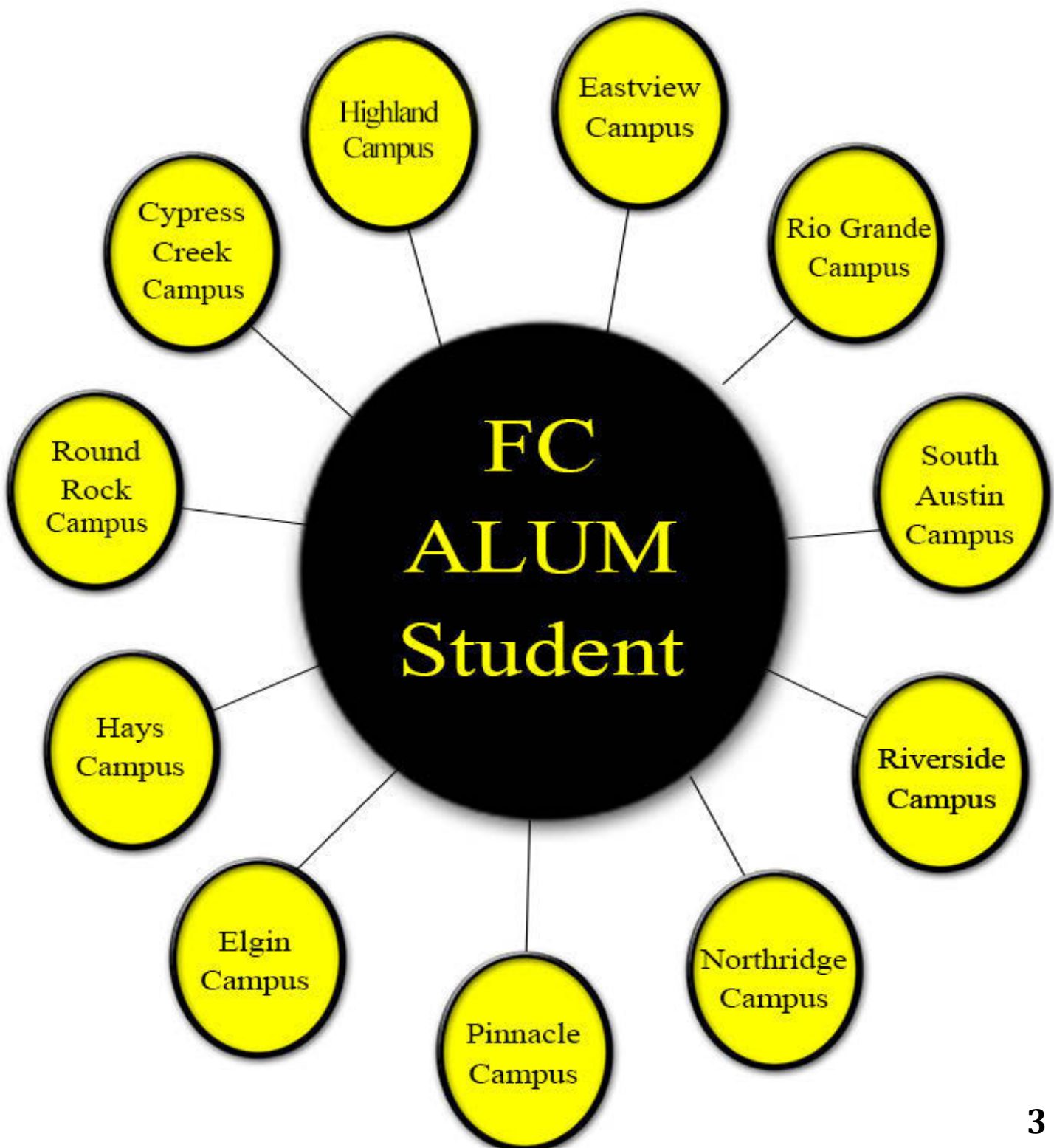
Start Here. Get There.

Your path to college begins at ACC.

Get started today!

austincc.edu/fca





Campus Champions

The following individuals serve as advisors for foster youth entering college. There is one Champion at each location to assist with academic course selection, and provide guidance and assistance throughout the student's experience at ACC.



Loretta Edelen
Community Outreach
Director

Campus: Eastview
Phone: 512-223-5106

edelen@austincc.edu



Sylvia Galvan Gonzalez
Dean

Campus: Elgin
Phone: 512-223-2106

sgalvang@austincc.edu



Marshall Levett
Student Counselor

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Specialist

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Rosalind Cunningham
Professor/ Counselor

Campus: Rio Grande
Phone: 512-223-3150

rcunning@austincc.edu



Bette Weakley

Assessment/Advising Specialist
Workforce Solutions Center, South

Phone: 512-381-4233

bweakley@austincc.edu



Lupe Mendoza
Assistant
Professor/Counselor

Campus: Hays

Phone: 512.262.6527
gmendoza@austincc.edu



Kathy James
Advising Supervisor

Campus: Round Rock

Phone: 512-223-0040

kjames@austincc.edu



Chris Owens
Advising Supervisor

Campus: Riverside

Phone: 512-223-6203

owenso@austincc.edu



Ruth Reinhar
Student Counselor

Campus: South Austin

Phone: 512-223-9158

reinhar@austincc.edu



Angelica Cancino
Specialist, Special Populations

Campus: Riverside

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acancino@austincc.edu



Dawn Allison
Counselor/Professor, Associate

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Joyce Pope-Cain
Counselor/Associate Professor

Campus: Pinnacle

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Phone: 512.223.5106
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Loretta Edelen
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Foster Care Alumni Coordinator

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Christopher D. Owens, M.A.
Advising Supervisor / Foster Care Champion

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www.austincc.edu • www.austincc.edu/support/advertising

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From Foster Care to College—we can help you get there!

The Foster Care Alumni Committee (FCAC) is a network of organizations and agencies committed to helping alumni from foster care be successful in higher education.

FCAC Mission

To develop and enhance community collaboration to improve academic outcomes for foster alumni through access to resources and support.

Program Model

Support

- Campus Champions at each of ACC's 11 campuses - ACC Counselors who are specifically trained in the resources and needs of foster care alumni
- Peer Mentoring (Phi Theta Kappa and Foster Care Alumni Club)
- ACC Foster Care Alumni Club: LUV (Learning, Uniting, Volunteering) Club
- Luggage Project

Coordination

- Service Providers and Campus Champions meet regularly to coordinate and improve services, share resources, reduce duplication, and attend training
- Strategic Plan addresses direct support, advocacy and coordination

Advocacy

- Explore housing resources
- Educate the community and legislators
- Pursue grant opportunities
- Share the program locally and nationally

Contact Loretta Edelen, Director, at 512 223.5106 or edelen@austincc.edu

Program Sponsors

- Austin Community College
- CASA of Travis County
- Casey Family Programs
- LifeWorks
- Department of Family & Protective Services (CPS)
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society of ACC
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board



Austin Community College | Foster Care Alumni Program (www.austincc.edu/fca)
Austin Community College (ACC) supports youth from care through its Student Services office. The impetus for developing these services came from the highest level of college policymakers and administration.

Program Description: Austin Community College in Austin, TX provides support to students on its eleven campuses through an academic advisor or counselor on each campus. These individuals, known as campus champions, are drawn from the existing staff. The program, called the Foster Care Alumni Program, is managed through the college's Office of Student Support and Success Systems. This management structure is well suited to meet the needs of ACC students because it also administers other offices essential to the success of youth from care, such as financial aid, counseling, and academic support. The vice president for student support and success systems, working with the director of community outreach, spearheaded program development, outreach to community-based organizations, communication, and evaluation. A team with representatives from the college, child welfare, and a key community agency developed the Foster Care Alumni Program. The key components of the program are:

- Pre-college outreach through transitional assistance programs in the community
- Early identification of students using Independent Living contracts, word of mouth, posters, a website, and targeted brochures
- Outreach to students by the campus champions with periodic follow-up contact
- Student services staff collaboration and coordination of services
- A four-day college orientation called Jump Start
- Direct referral of students to resources within and outside of the college
- Concerted problem solving on common issues of concern such as housing, transportation, a comprehensive stream of financial support, childcare, and counseling
- Ongoing opportunities for student leadership and advocacy
- Staff training
- Ongoing data collection of student demographics and academic performance
- Local and state advocacy and awareness of alumni from foster care
- Student club for alumni from foster care and friends

Source: *“Supporting Success: Improving Higher Education Outcomes for Student from Foster Care,”* pg 45-47

by Casey Family Programs, A Framework for Program Enhancement
version 2.0

OTHER HELP FOR COLLEGE

To receive financial aid from the government such as a PELL Grant, you must apply for federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for each year that you attend college. To apply for federal financial aid, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS

The University Of Texas at Arlington provides a 50 percent discount on residential housing.

The University Of Texas-Pan American provides up to six residential housing scholarships per year.

Texas A&M University at College Station provides a staff person to help Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) students at the university.

Texas State University (TSU)-San Marcos started an annual \$1,000 scholarship for former foster youth. In addition, TSU has a website to provide additional resources and other supports for Foster Care Alumni who are interested in attending TSU or who are enrolled at TSU.

TO SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS:

- ★ www.finaid.org
- ★ www.orphan.org
- ★ www.fastweb.com
- ★ www.collegeboard.org
- ★ www.college.gov
- ★ www.collegefortexans.com
- ★ www.theccb.state.tx.us

Or look under Education at www.texasyouthconnection.org.

Austin Community College (ACC) has an outstanding support system for former foster youth attending the college. Part of the success of this system is the participation of community stakeholders through an ongoing workgroup. Members include the Casey Family Programs, Life Works (a community program for homeless and at-risk youth), the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and representatives from DFPS/CPS. During Spring 2010 semester, 138 foster youth were registered at ACC.

Ask your caseworker or the PAL staff if there are other college partnerships in the area where you live.

**Campus Champions Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2014
HBC-Room 220
3pm – 5pm**

Welcome

Presentation Sooch Foundation Success Project with Foundation Communities by Dr. Jodi Denyszyn

Update on Mitte Grant 2014 by Dr. Kathy Walton, Grants Compliance and Angelica Cancino, Support Center forms

“Access Granted” Conference update on 2/22/14 – request for two ACC students to present + confirmation on Campus Champions who will be present

Texas Reach 2014 update

on logistics

Hotel - Dawn

Food – Kathy, Linda Morrison

On presentation for 5-30

Jump Start Orientation Dates and locations for 2014 – 7/30 – 8/1?

Mentor Meet-Up Topic for February

Next Meeting Dates at 3 p.m. at HBC:

March 6, 2014

April 10, 2014

May

JUMP START 2014 ORIENTATION

AN EVENT FOR FOSTER CARE AND FOSTER CARE ALUMNI STUDENTS

Prizes for perfect attendance on all 3 days!

FREE SHUTTLE BUS to campus each day! Meet at Highland Business Center, Room 221, at 9 a.m. daily.

3-DAY WORKSHOP
JULY 30-AUGUST 1

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. WED. & THURS.,
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. FRI.

All the information you need to start life at ACC

Meet ACC Faculty, Staff and Foster Care Alumni Members

- What to Expect at ACC
- Free Refreshments
- Campus Tours
- Scavenger Hunt

Your path to college begins at ACC. Get started today!

Contact Loretta Edelen if you have any questions: (512)223.5106 or edelen@austincc.edu

Register for Jump Start Orientation

- Phone: (512) 223-5186
- Online: austincc.edu/fca
- Fax: (512) 223.5033
- In Person: pick up a registration form from the **Community Outreach Department, ACC Eastview Campus, 3401 Webberville Road, Austin, TX 78702**



Time	Event
9 a.m.	Meet at 221 in HBC
9:10 - 10:00 a.m.	Go to RRC and meet in room 2131
9:40 - 10:00 a.m.	Welcome and Breakfast
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Registration, Advising, GPS, Financial Aid
11:45- 12:30 p.m.	Tour
12:30 – 1 p.m.	Lunch with Texas Foster Youth Justice Project – Kristina Pfeiffer
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Health Representatives + Meningitis
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Return to HBC 221

Day Two – July 31, 2014 NRG

9 a.m.	Meet in 221 in HBC.
9:10 – 9:30 a.m.	Go to and meet in room 3140 (Breakfast) Welcome and Icebreaker
9:35 – 10:30 a.m.	Financial Aid Presentation – with Frank Guttierrez– ACC Financial Aid Supervisor, NRC ETV Presentation – Marisol Lopez with Baptist Children’s Family Services
10:35 - 11:00 a.m.	Registration, IDs, Green passes/Games
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	Mentor Introductions and Tour
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch with Nutrition and Healthy Meals
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Presentation on Support Center with Angelica Cancino-Cox Office of Students with Disabilities with Cathy Tremaria
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Return to HBC 221

Day Three – August 1, 2014 EVC

9 a.m.	Meet in 221 at HBC
9:10 – 9:45 a.m.	Go to and meet in room 3158 (Breakfast)
9:45 – 10:10 a.m.	Icebreaker with Carlos Charles
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.	What to Expect” Panel with Lupe Mendoza-HUDE, Blackboard, MyMathLab, Tutoring Lab, and Learning Lab, Campus Champion and Student Life. Work Source representative and former Foster Care member- Tym Belseth
11:15 – 12:45 p.m.	Mentor Introductions and Tour
12:45 – 1:30 p.m.	Career Explorations by Janie Wang
1:30 – 3:20 p.m.	Lunch with Kaycee Bruce on Virtual Lounge and Fun Activities
3:30 - 4 p.m.	Return to HBC 221



ACC FCA Work Study Mentorship Position Description

Description

Mentors work with community partners on the recruitment of foster care alumni to attend ACC. This may include but is not limited to: giving presentations to groups or individuals, hosting workshops, and working with the community outreach director on additional projects. Mentors assist with the enrollment process which includes college admission, financial aid, educational training voucher application, test prep, and health benefits. Mentors also keep accurate data and record keeping of the students they assist at their respective campuses. Mentors will also work with internal partners to identify additional resources for the alumni such as study groups.

Potential candidates **MUST** be available to serve on a part time basis (15 hours/week) and have reliable transportation. Mentors will be supervised by a Campus Champion.

Eligibility

A FCA Mentor Work Study member must be a U.S. citizen, U.S. National or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age with a minimum high school diploma or an equivalency certificate. Applicants must have and maintain a GPA of 2.5, a 67% completion rate, and have completed a minimum of 12 semester credit hours. Applicants are also required to take a minimum of 6 hours of ACC courses during each semester of employment. Due to the nature of working with youth, applicants must pass criminal background checks.

Benefits

Potential applicants must commit to work a maximum of 15 hrs./week over nine months. Mentors will be paid \$10.50 an hour. We offer flexible working schedule, training and professional development.

Skills

A commitment and dedication to service
General knowledge of college admission and financial aid processes
Willing to work with youth in diverse populations
Ability to work with limited supervision, excellent communication skills, record and data keeping
Willing to work some evenings and/or weekends
Bilingual candidates are encouraged to apply
Computer skills required

To Apply

Contact either Financial Aid Supervisor:



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE
It takes a college!

Have Questions? We have answers!
Come meet the FCA Mentors; we're
here to help!

**Foster Care Alumni
Mentor Meet-Up**



Who: Foster Care Alumni students

When: Wednesday April 24, 12:30pm—2:00 pm

Where: Eastview Campus, Room 8125

What: Come and meet other Foster Care Alumni, and ACC mentors. Choosing a Major? Come and talk with a career counselor.

Lunch will be provided!



FCA RESOURCE DIRECTORY

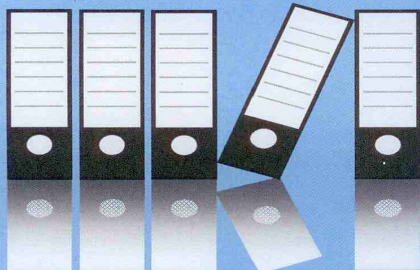


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Want to help students in need? Then **DONATE** to the **ACC Foster Care luggage drive!**

Benefiting the Foster Care Alumni



**DEADLINE IS
MAY 6, 2014**

Drop off **NEW** luggage



Drop off **NEW** luggage—preferably carry-on rolling duffels—with a FCA Champion.

Make a donation on austincc.edu



Make a credit card donation online at *ACC Marketplace*. Go to **austincc.edu** and select ACC Marketplace under *eServices*.

Make a donation in person



Make a cash, check, or credit card donation at any ACC Cashier Office.



Foster Care Alumni Campus Champions

NAME	CAMPUS	PHONE	EMAIL
Loretta Edelen, Coordinator		(512) 223.5106	edelen@austincc.edu
Dawn Allison	Cypress	(512) 223.2103	dallison@austincc.edu
Marshall Levett	Eastview	(512) 223.5197	mlevett@austincc.edu
Sylvia Galvan Gonzalez	Elgin	(512) 223.9407	sgalvang@austincc.edu
Guadalupe Mendoza	Hays	(512) 223.8110	gmendoza@austincc.edu
Lee Reichardt	Northridge	(512) 223.4877	mreichar@austincc.edu
Joyce Pope-Cain	Pinnacle	(512) 223.8111	jpcain@austincc.edu
Rosalind Cunningham	Rio Grande	(512) 223.3150	rcunning@austincc.edu
Chris Owens	Riverside	(512) 223.6203	owensc@austincc.edu
Angelica Cancino	Riverside	(512) 223.6026	acancino@austincc.edu
Kathy James	Round Rock	(512) 223.0040	kjames@austincc.edu
Ruth Reinhart	South Austin	(512) 223.9158	rreinhar@austincc.edu
Bette Weakley	Workforce Solutions	(512) 381.4233	bweakley@austincc.edu

Drop off donated luggage at any campus champion's or campus police office

austincc.edu/fca



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Foster Care Alumni



**Williamson County Community Ties:
A Resource Fair -Hosted at
Austin Community College-Cypress Creek Campus
Wednesday, April 3, 10 AM – 1 PM**
(A PROJECT INITIATED BY THE CYPRESS CREEK COUNSELING TEAM)



GET HELP....GIVE HELP

- Discover 20+ RESOURCES in your local community
- Learn how to access community resources
- Benefit from a multitude of educational, social, mental/medical health programs
- Identify how you can help in your community

“TIE INTO YOUR COMMUNITY!!!”

OFFICIAL CAMPUS
KICK-OFF FOR:
ACC Foster Care Alumni Program
Luggage Drive &
Hill Country Community
Ministries Food Drive



1555 Cypress Creek Rd., Cedar Park, TX 78613, Building 1000 Student Common Area



Best Practices – ACC Campus Champions



Moderator:

☀️ Loretta Edelen

**Presented by ACC
Champions:**

☀️ Sylvia Galvan Gonzalez

☀️ Chris Owens

☀️ Lee Reichardt

☀️ Ruth Rodriguez-Reinhart

and

**FCA Work Study /
Mentor**

☀️ KayCee Bruce

EDUCATION
Reach
for **TEXANS**



2014

Helping Foster Youth Reach their Dream of a College Education

From Foster Care to College Conference

Hosted at
Austin Community
College

May 30, 2014



EDUCATION
Reach
for **TEXANS**



2014

Helping Foster Youth Reach their Dream of a College Education

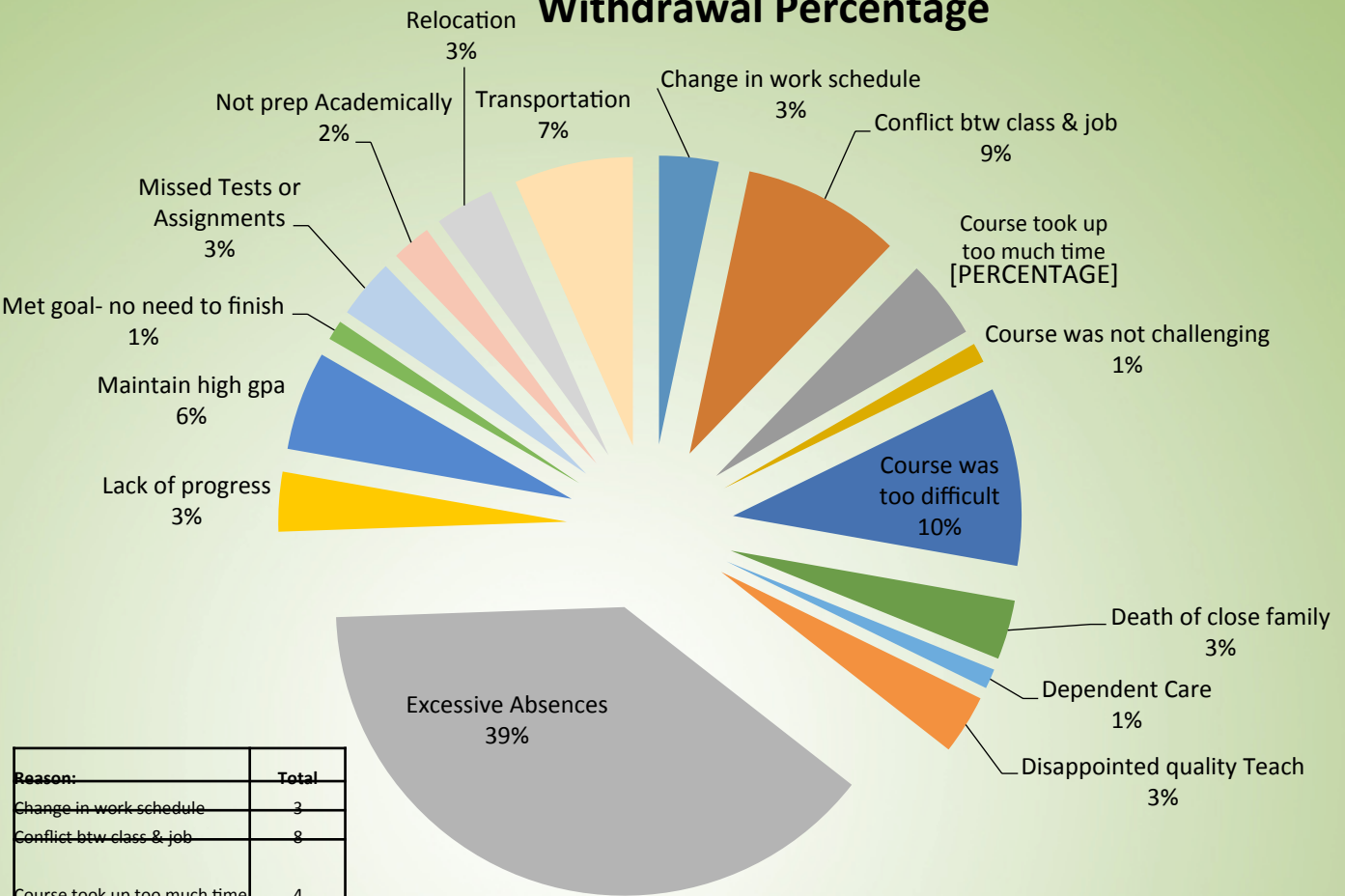
From Foster Care to College Conference

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Austin Community
College

May 30, 2014



Withdrawal Percentage



Reason:	Total
Change in work schedule	3
Conflict btw class & job	8
Course took up too much time	4
Course was not challenging	1
Course was too difficult	9
Death of close family	3
Dependent Care	1
Disappointed quality Teach	3
Excessive Absences	35
Lack of progress	3
Maintain high gpa	5
Met goal- no need to finish	1
Missed Tests or Assignments	3
Not prep Academically	2
Relocation	3
Transportation	6
Total	90

Top Five W/D Reasons	
Excessive Absences	39%
Course too difficult	10%
Conflict btw class & job	9%
Transportation	6%
Maintain high GPA	6%



Campus Champion Manual

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May 5, 2014

Dear (Student):

Thank you for choosing ACC as your educational partner for higher education. Hopefully you are having a good academic semester at ACC. As the ACC Foster Care Alumni (FCA) Coordinator, I work with the Campus Champions in assisting FCA students to transition into college. You may have already met with one of the following people:

Champion	Campus	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Dawn Allison	CYP	(512) 223.2103	dallison@austincc.edu
Sylvia Galvan Gonzalez	EGN	(512) 223.9409	sgalvag@austincc.edu
Loretta Edelen, Coordinator	EVC	(512) 223.5106	edelen@austincc.edu
Marshall Levett	EVC	(512) 223.5197	mlevett@austincc.edu
Lee Reichardt	NRG	(512) 223.4877	mreichar@austincc.edu
Lupe Mendoza	HAYS	(512) 262.6527	gmendoza@austincc.edu
Joyce Pope-Cain	PIN	(512) 223.8111	jpcain@austincc.edu
Rosalind Cunningham	RGC	(512) 223.3150	rcunning@austincc.edu
Kathy James	RRC	(512) 223.0040	kjames@austincc.edu
Angelica Cancino	RVS	(512) 223.6026	acancino@austincc.edu
Chris Owens	RVS	(512) 223.6203	owensc@austincc.edu
Ruth Reinhart	SAC	(512) 223.9158	rreinhar@austincc.edu
Bette Weakley	Workforce Solutions	(512) 381.4233	bweakley@austincc.edu

Through the Mitte Grant, you may be eligible for assistance with your books and supplies if you plan to take classes at ACC this summer. Please contact one of the Champions on the above list concerning your eligibility to receive assistance with your books and supplies for summer 2014 classes at ACC.

We want to help you be successful.

Sincerely,

Loretta Edelen

Join us for a School District Foster Care liaison lunch meeting to network and link with other partners in support of students in foster care.

School District Foster Care Liaison Lunch Meeting
Friday, November 30, 2012 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Austin Community College
Highland Business Center
5930 Middle Fiskville Road, Room #301 (third floor)
Austin, TX 78752

Program:

- Welcome – Austin Community College , Chair-Foster Care Advisory Committee
Kathleen E. Christensen, Vice President, Student Services
- Supreme Court Children’s Commission – Education Committee - Texas Blueprint Report
Tiffany Roper, Assistant Director, Children’s Commission
- School District Foster Care Liaison Introduction: (Laws & Practices that support foster youth)
Kelly Kravitz, Foster Care Education & Policy Coordinator, Texas Education Agency
- Credit Recovery and Transfer of Records:
Erica Brewington, Regional Educational Specialist for Region 7, Child Protective Services
- College Opportunities & Access: Texas Reach Conference, June 3-4, 2013:
Elaine Carter, Supervisor Prevention Services, Casey Family Programs
- Message from a Former Foster Youth:
Tym Belseth, Youth Specialist for Region 7, Child Protective Services
- Future Direction:
Edna Butts, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight, Austin AISD

Sponsored by the ACC Foster Care Alumni Advisory Committee

RSVP: Peggy McClellan, 223-7053 or mmccllell@austincc.edu by Tuesday, November 27.

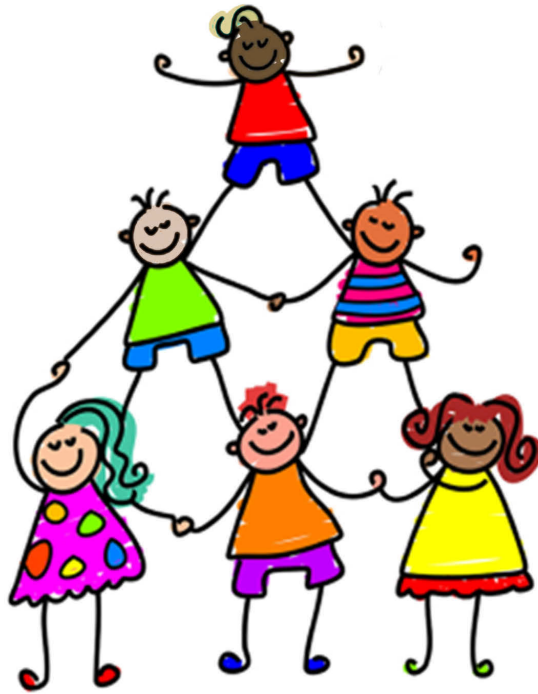
FCA Graduation Sash



We Can Do This Together.



What Are Your Best Practices?



Q & A