

# **BIRTH OF A NATIONAL MOVEMENT**

**SUPPORTING FOSTER CARE ALUMNI  
IN TEXAS AND ACROSS THE NATION**

**CLINT RODENFELS, PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION REACH FOR TEXANS  
5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION REACH FOR TEXANS CONVENING  
AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 30 MAY 2014**



# **THE PROBLEM**

**Insufficient numbers of former foster youth enter and subsequently graduate from postsecondary institutions.**

**This despite availability of federal funds and, in several states, tuition waivers.**

**Why?**

# THE PAST

## TEXAS' COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

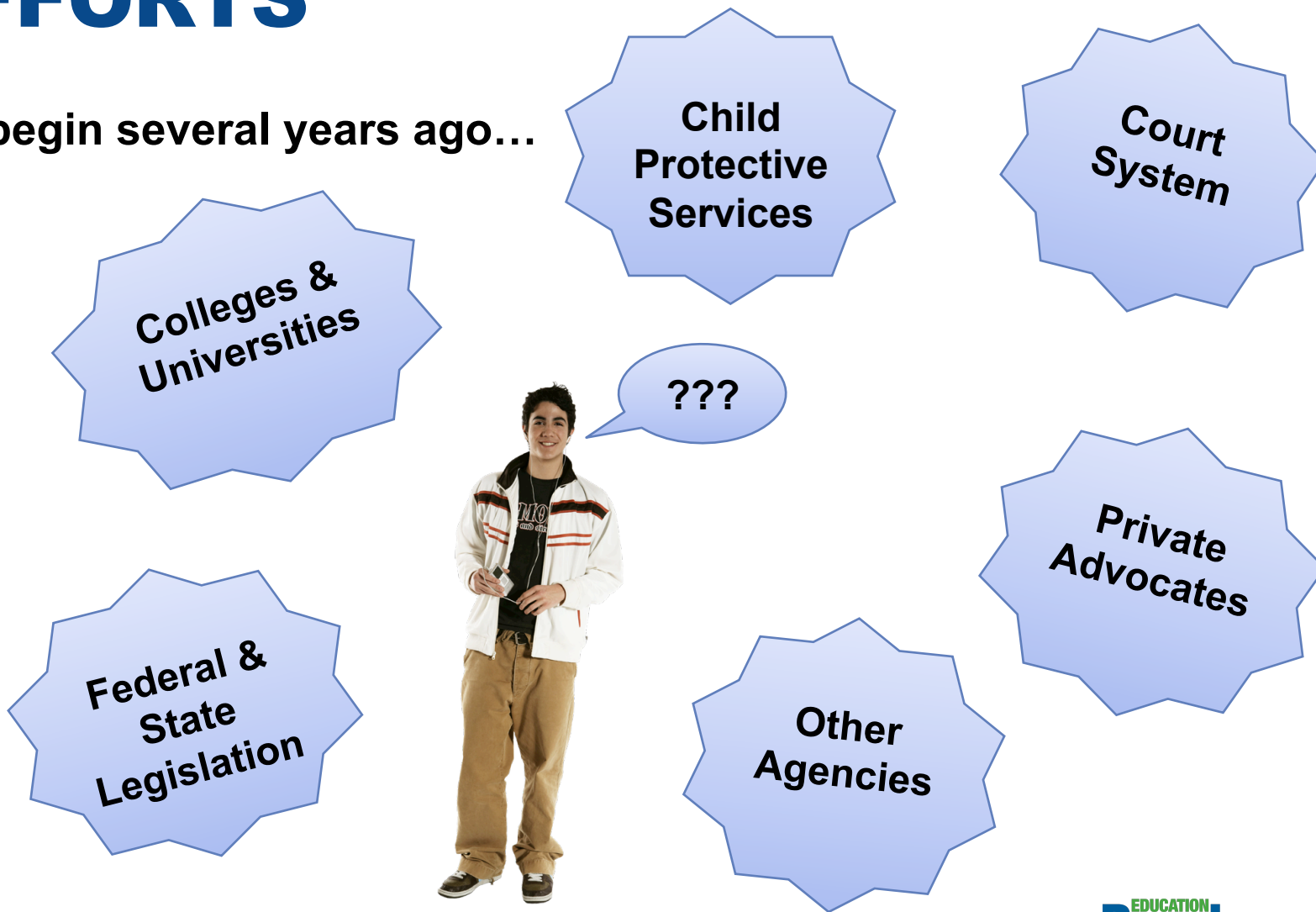
- Austin Community College Champions
- Texas Tech PEGASUS
- Something at Texas A&M Kingsville?

## OTHER EFFORTS OUTSIDE TEXAS

- Cal State Fullerton Guardian Scholars – 1998
- Nina Scholars Program (Arizona & Indiana) – 2001
- First National Convening of Postsecondary Education Support Programs for Former Foster Youth – 2005
- State of Washington Passport to College Promise – 2007

# INDEPENDENT EFFORTS

We begin several years ago...



# AN IDEA



# FACILITATE

**Meet and Develop  
Mutual Understanding**



# COLLABORATE

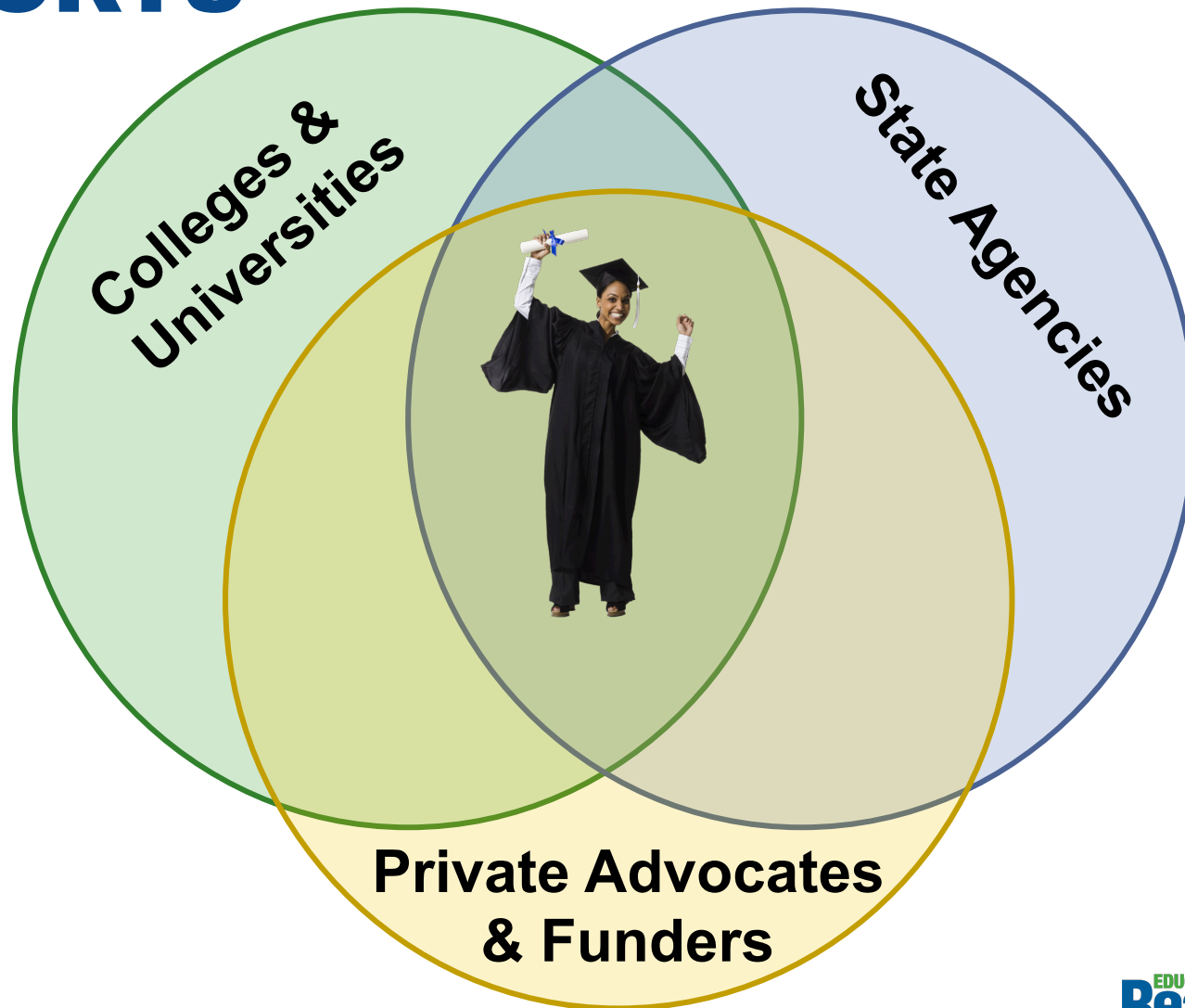
**Get to Know  
Each Other**



**Learn the  
Other's Language**

**Work Together on  
Common Goals**

# COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS



5ht Annual Education Reach for Texans Convening, 30 May 2014, Austin, Texas



# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

- **Austin Community College** - Foster Care Alumni Program
- **Dallas County Community College District** - Foster Care Initiative
- **Texas State University-San Marcos** - Foster Care Alumni Creating Education Success (FACES)
- **Texas Tech University** - Pioneers in Education: Generations Achieving Scholarship & Unprecedented Success (PEGASUS) Program
- **Texas Woman's University** - Frontiers Program
- **Sam Houston State University** - FORWARD Program
- **University of Houston** - Urban Experience Program (UEP)
- **University of North Texas** - Persevere UNTil Success Happens (PUSH)
- **University of Texas-Austin** - Horns Helping Horns
- **University of Texas at El Paso** - Foster Homeless Adopted Resources (FHAR)
- **University of Texas at San Antonio** - ACCESS Center
- **West Texas A&M** - Buff Connections

# **TEXAS INSTITUTIONS WITH DEDICATED STAFF**

- **Alamo Community College**
- **Amarillo College**
- **Clarendon College**
- **Frank Phillips College**
- **Lone Star Colleges in Houston**
- **Midland College**
- **Prairie View A&M**
- **South Plains College**
- **Texas A&M-San Antonio**
- **Texas State Technical Colleges**
- **UT-Pan American**
- **UT-Permian Basin**

# GOOD IDEAS SPREAD

## A FEW YEARS AGO

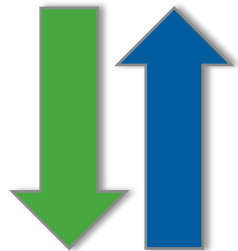
- California College Pathways
- Ohio Reach
- Passport to College Promise (WA)

## PRESENT DAY

- California College Pathways
- Ohio Reach
- Passport to College Promise (WA)
- Education Reach for Texans
- Florida Reach
- Embark Georgia
- Kansas Kids @ Gear Up
- Fostering Success Michigan
- North Carolina Reach
- Great Expectations (VA)

# VARIABLE STRUCTURE

**Top Down**



**Bottom Up**

**Research Driven**



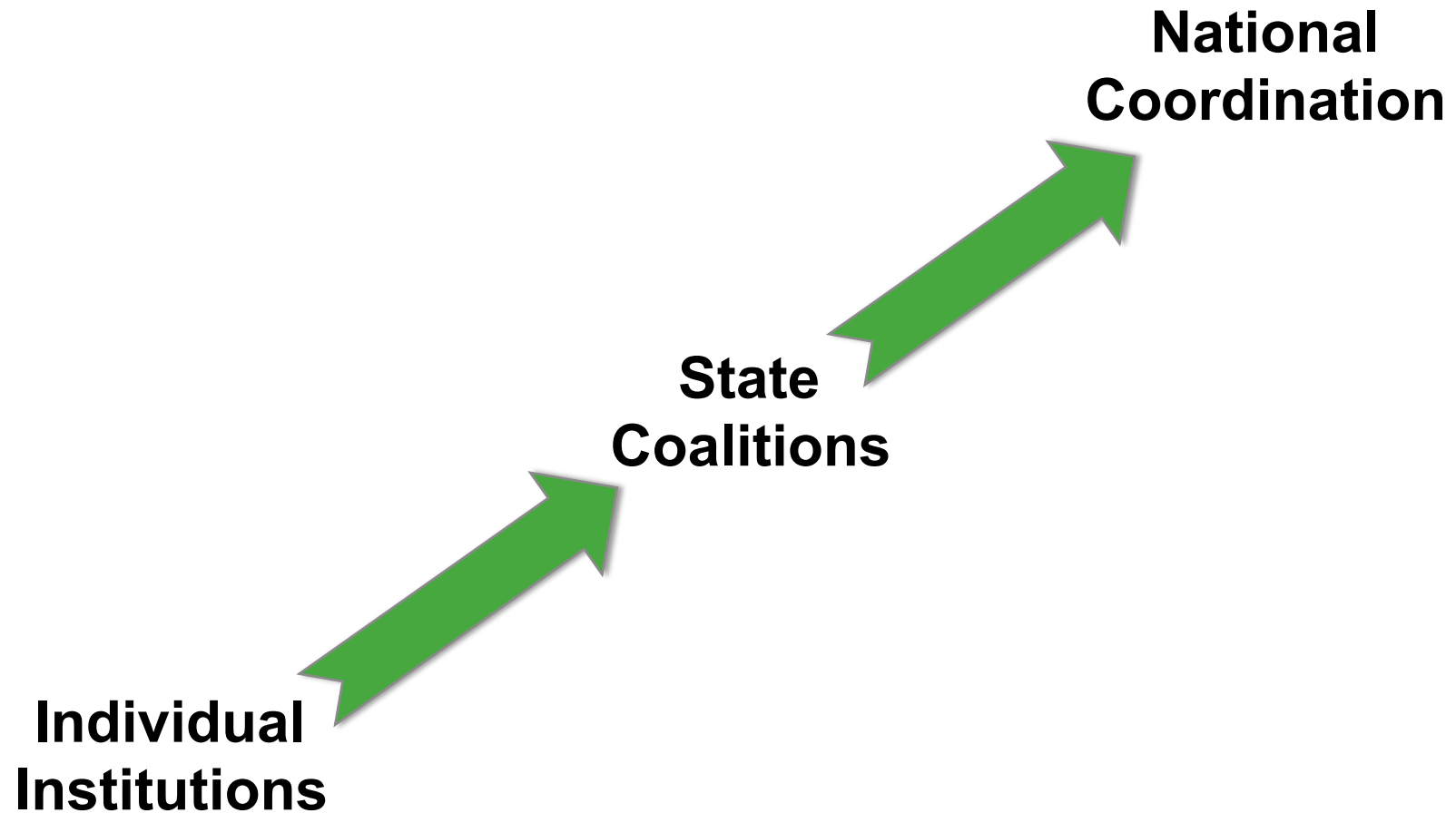
**Practice Oriented**

**Volunteer &  
Shoestring**



**Staffed &  
Funded**

# DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME



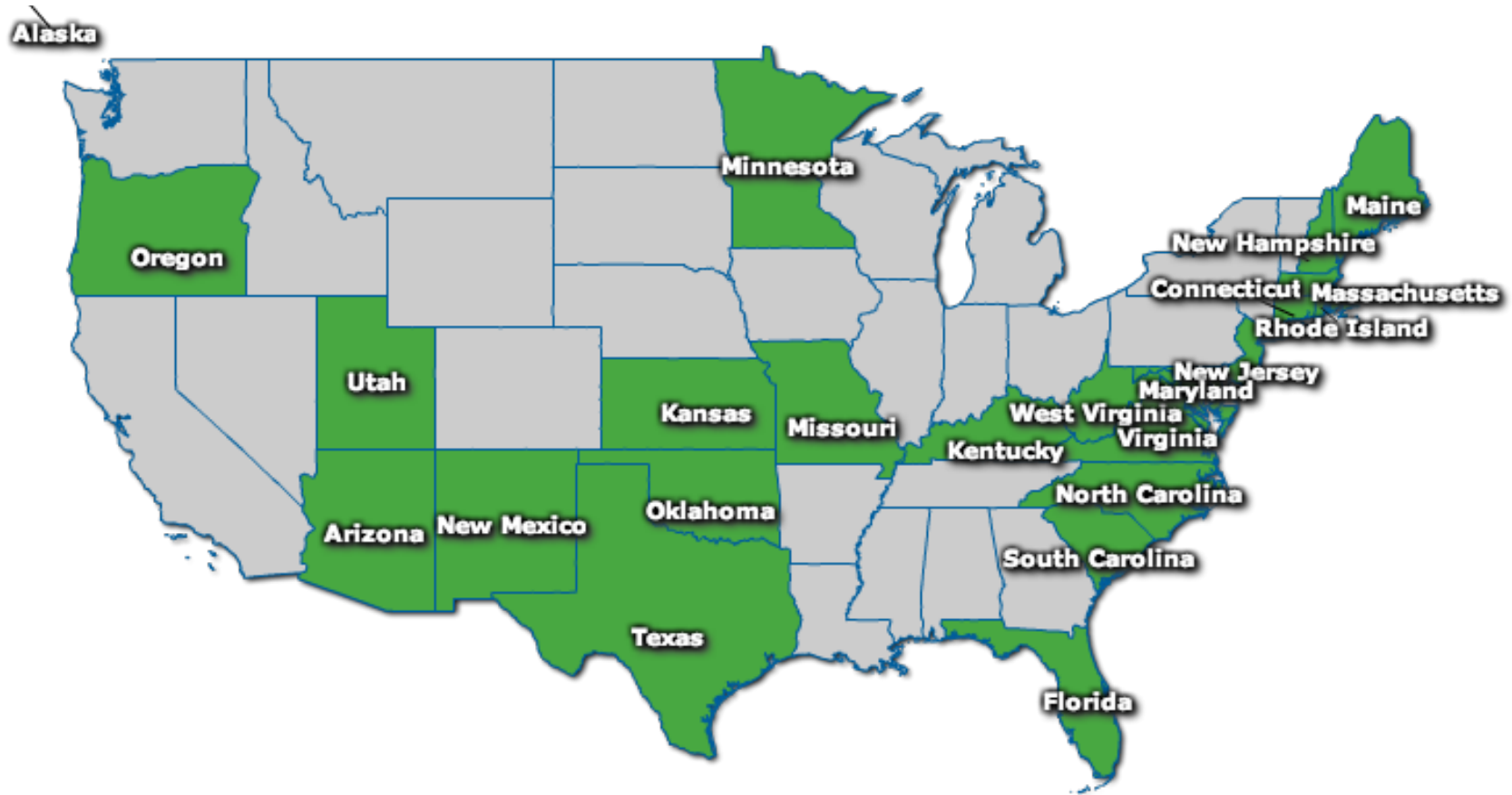
# NATIONAL COORDINATION

- **NATIONAL CONVENING ON FOSTER YOUTH AND HIGHER EDUCATION**
  - National Interest (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, and Washington)
  - Added extra day for non-California organizations (10/22/13)
- **CONVENED NATIONAL TASK FORCE (3/21/14)**
- **SEEKING A HOME IN NASPA**
  - Knowledge Community focused on former foster youth
  - Interested? Talk to John Emerson or Maddy Day
- **NEXT STEPS**
  - Transition to New Leadership: Foster Care to Success and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation
  - Call to Action coming in July 2014

# WHAT IS THE NATIONAL PICTURE?



# STATES WITH TUITION WAIVERS





# INSTITUTIONAL OR STATE PROGRAMS

