

The Path

Positive Pathways Program Newsletter

Fall 2018

This edition of The Path includes the following stories about our exciting Network:

- *Regional meeting in Tampa-St. Petersburg*
- *Child Welfare Champion of the Year*
- *New Positive Pathways Display Signs*
- *Positive Pathways Webinar Recording Online*
- *Frequently Asked Questions*

Let us know about your events, activities, and programs so that we can feature you in The Path! You can reach us at Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org.

Enjoy!

Steve

Dr. Steve Rios

Senior Director and Editor

Positive Pathways / The Path

West Coast Positive Pathways Members to Meet on October 25



The flyer features the Positive Pathways logo at the top, which includes a graduation cap icon and the text 'POSITIVE PATHWAYS Success within Reach'. Below the logo, the event title 'Tampa-St. Petersburg Regional Meeting' is displayed in yellow on a dark blue background. The event details are listed in white text: 'Thursday, October 25th, 2018, 10 a.m. - noon, St. Petersburg College, 6605 5th Avenue North (Gibbs Campus), St. Petersburg, FL 33710, Social Arts (SA) Building, Room 114'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Event Sponsors' with logos for St. Petersburg College (SPC) and CETERA.

If you are near the Tampa-St. Petersburg area on October 25, join us for our first-ever Tampa-St. Petersburg regional meeting. Dr. Cheryl Kerr, the foster care liaison at St. Petersburg College, and Dr. Steve Rios, senior director of Positive Pathways, will welcome about 15 people from the University of South Florida, the FUSE Program, the Guardian Ad Litem program, and other community organizations to the Gibbs Campus (see information at left). We will discuss the needs of postsecondary students using the DCF waiver and how united action can support their dreams (what else, right?!)

The event is being cosponsored by Cetera, Inc., a nonprofit organization cofounded by Jamie Bennett, a social worker and doctoral student at USF, Chris Scronce, a business leader, and Dee Menzer, an attorney and guardian ad litem. Cetera was founded to address resource gaps for young adults aging out of foster care ages 18-28 in St. Petersburg and the Tampa Bay region." Click [here](#) to RSVP.

FSU's Lisa Jackson Honored as Child Welfare Champion of the Year

Lisa Jackson, director of the Unconquered Scholars Program at Florida State University, was honored as a Child Welfare Champion of the Year during the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) annual summit last month.

Jackson, an active member of the Positive Pathways Network, was nominated by former DCF Secretary Mike Carroll for her many years of service to students from foster care striving to reach their education dreams.

"Ms. Jackson has never wavered in her ability to rise to the lofty standard to which students in the program and university officials hold her," wrote Mr. Carroll, in his nomination letter.

Established with 20 students in 2012, the Florida State University Unconquered Scholars Program (Program) now serves more than 100 FSU students who experienced foster care, homelessness, relative care, or ward of the state status.

Congratulations, Lisa!



Lisa Jackson, right, receives award from DCF's Brittany Gordon.

Students Using the Tuition Exemption Can Soon Look for a Sign



More than 4,000 students using the DCF tuition and fee exemption on each and every public college and university campus will soon be able to identify where help can be found by using the new Positive Pathways display sign.

The sign, designed by a former foster youth who obtained his degree from the Miami Dade College New World School of the Arts/University of Florida, is 18.5 inches tall and 12.5 inches wide. The bold and attractive graphic has the four key values of the program surrounding the Positive Pathways logo (see graphic at left). The sign also has information about the Program's two statewide sponsors, and the URL for the Program's website. There is room for the local college or university to include an institutional logo and information about how to reach the designated campus liaison.

To request your copy, contact Dr. Steve Rios, senior director, at Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org. Our vision is that more and more students using the waiver will become familiar with the sign and seek out the liaisons associated with them for support, guidance, encouragement and information.

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Q. What is extended foster care and how does it impact students using the DCF tuition exemption to pursue their post-secondary education?

A. At age 18, students in foster care in Florida who have been living in licensed foster care and who meet other criteria, such as attending high school or a GED program, or being enrolled in college or in a vocational education program, can remain in Florida's independent living program under the extended foster care program. Students in the program can receive monthly living stipends of up to \$1,256 a month to pay expenses while they pursue their education. They are required to stay in touch with caseworkers, who ensure they are making progress in school.

If you are a campus-based foster care liaisons, caseworkers can help confirm that students are eligible for the tuition exemption and they can help advocate for students. To find out which community-based care agencies work with students in your area, visit [this page](#) at the Positive Pathways Program website, which is www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org. If you have any other questions, contact us.

Q. What do I do if I can't get in touch with the liaison listed on the Positive Pathways website?

A. We periodically call the numbers listed on the website to make sure they will lead you quickly to the liaison listed for that college or university. If you are having trouble reaching the right person, however, feel free to contact Dr. Steve Rios directly at Pathways@EducateTomorrow.org, or (305) 924-5881.

Q. I missed the recent Positive Pathways webinar. Can I still see the Webinar online somewhere?

A. Of course. Florida's Center of Child Welfare, at the University of South Florida, hosted the webinar and posted a link to the recording on their website. Our training, and other important training relevant to our work, can be found [here](#).

