

Positive Pathways

Program Newsletter

SUMMER 2019



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Community Forums and Luncheons in Three Florida Communities to Focus of Pathways' Mission

If you live anywhere near Palm Beach, Duval, or Volusia counties and are interested in helping young people from foster care succeed in college, join us this month at an upcoming community forum and luncheon.

Network members at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), Florida State College at Jacksonville, and Daytona State College will host community forums and luncheons to increase awareness about the opportunities and benefits available to postsecondary students from foster care using the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) tuition and fee exemption. The forums will provide an opportunity for advocates in the same community to learn about each other's work, to network, and to find out about potential funding for campus-based programs.

"We are encouraged by the enthusiasm that campus and community-based leaders have expressed related to hosting these community forums," said Brett McNaught, Chief Executive Officer of Educate Tomorrow, the non-profit organization that administers the Positive Pathways Program for DCF. "I look forward to meeting many new partners who want to help move this cause forward."

The two-hour sessions will begin with an opportunity for child welfare and education professionals to talk about their work. The second hour will be a complimentary "pinball luncheon," sponsored by Educate Tomorrow, during which participants can move from table to table and ask in-depth questions about programs. During the third session, the hosts and sponsors will present more detailed information about how they support, and plan to support, college students using the DCF tuition exemption.

The first forum will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Wednesday, July 17, at the Tech Runway (Building 106), at FAU in Boca Raton. Jasmine Moore, Assistant Director for the Educate Tomorrow @ FAU program, and Assistant Dean for University Advising Joe Murray will host the event. Representatives from Palm Beach



State College, ChildNet Palm Beach, Best Foot Forward, Vita Nova and other Palm Beach and Broward-based advocacy programs are scheduled to present information about their work.

On Thursday, July 18th, our host will be Denise Giarusso, Associate Director of Student Support Services at Florida State College at Jacksonville. On July 25th, the forum will take place at Daytona State College, hosted by Erin LeDuc, who directs the Center for Women and Men.

"We look forward to welcoming our community partners and advocates to this event," said LeDuc, who recently joined the Positive Pathways Network. "We have more than 200 students on this campus using the DCF exemption so there is an urgent need for increased action to support them."

For details and to register for any of the forums, visit the Positive Pathways Website, and look for the Upcoming Events tab, at www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org.



Positive Pathways is funded by the Florida Department of Children and Families and administered by Educate Tomorrow.



Positive Pathways Members Invited to Participate in a Study about the Program



Althea Blake

Althea Blake, a candidate for a doctor of education degree at Northeastern University, would like to invite campus-based foster care liaisons throughout Florida to participate in a research study about the Positive Pathways Program. Blake, a former program assistant for Positive Pathways and an active volunteer, was recently hired as a counselor/advisor with the TRIO Student Support Services Program at the University of South Florida.

Blake's doctoral thesis is titled "The Impact of Positive Pathways on the Efficacy Beliefs and Performance of Campus Coaches".

If you are interested in participating in the study or to learn more about it, you can contact Althea at blake.al@husky.neu.edu.

Positive Pathways Contract Renewed for Another Year

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has renewed its Positive Pathways contract with Educate Tomorrow, a non-profit organization that, since 2003, has served former foster youth pursuing their postsecondary credentials. The new program year runs from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020.

Positive Pathways, which began its first full year of operation in July of 2017, provides technical assistance, monthly conference calls, webinars, and an annual conference for more than 150 members. Membership is open to any individuals who work with college students, or potential college students from foster care, relative care or adoptive homes.

Educate Tomorrow Chief Executive Officer supervises Positive Pathways, which is staffed by Senior Director Dr. Steve J. Rios and Program Assistant Racquell "Racqui" Perry, Esq. The program's website is www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org and its Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/floridareach>.



2019 New Member Orientation Now Available on the Positive Pathways Website

The latest update to the Positive Pathways new member orientation is now available. The presentation provides valuable information on the DCF tuition and fee exemption, the number of students using the exemption at each college and university, and opportunities for training, networking, and support offered by Positive Pathways.

The orientation presentation also provides information about, and direct links to, Florida public colleges and universities that have hired full-time student support professionals to work with students using the DCF exemption. To access the new member orientation, visit www.PositivePathwaysFlorida.org. You will find the new member orientation under the Resources Tab.

