Foster Care Awareness Month, Planning for Commencement and Summer Supports

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FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH, PLANNING FOR COMMENCEMENT AND SUMMER SUPPORTS
WHAT IS NEXTUP/REACH AND WHO DO WE SERVE?

NextUp/REACH is the Foster Youth support program at Mt. SAC. We serve both NextUp students and REACH (Guardian Scholars) students. REACH was founded in 2015, with NextUP being added in 2023 with the expansion of the program to all community college districts. With the addition of NextUp, the program became part of the EOPS umbrella.
## Foster Care Awareness Month

**Things to Consider**

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<th>What is the purpose?</th>
<th>Who is your audience?</th>
<th>How creative can you be?</th>
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<td>Can you involve other programs?</td>
<td>Not all your programming should be in May</td>
<td>What is your budget?</td>
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FCAM Events

Heart Garden Display
Showcase the intersectionality of our students

Open House
Exposure for your office to the campus community

Ally Training
Builds capacity for others to serve foster youth students

Social Media Campaigns
Expands interaction to other platforms and serves as promotion
Commencement

Have your own end of the year celebration, our students often don’t participate in campus commencement

Celebrate accomplishments, not only graduation

Start early, some students don’t know they are close

It is not always a happy time, address the sense of loss

Keep track of your graduates and Alumni
Summer Programming

Find out what is sustainable for your program

Do you need to grow the program or solidify the program?

Summer is a great time to work on your Data

Do you need to do your own programming, or can you collaborate/partner?

Is it necessary, supportive or just cool?
Summer Support Events

Orientation
Group onboarding to meet program requirements but with added activities to provide an engaging experience.

Leadership Retreat
Weekend retreat for continuing students with various workshops and activities.

Camping
Weekend trip to Sequoias mountains, students get to participate in hiking, cave exploration, art classes and life skills training.

Rising DREAM Residential Experience
Students take a summer course with final exam week taking place at UC Santa Barbara.
Questions?

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Los Angeles Valley College
NextUp / Guardian Scholars

Dr. Alex Ojeda
Foster Care Awareness Month
Hoodie Ceremony / Grad Fest
San Fernando Valley Scholars Network