



JOHN BURTON
Advocates
for Youth



California
Community
Colleges

Foster Care Awareness Month, Planning for Commencement and Summer Supports

March 28, 2024

MT.SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE

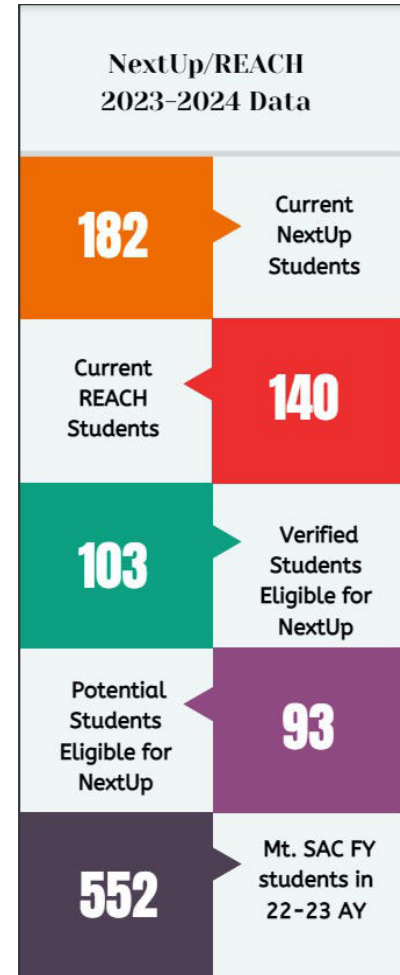
FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH,
PLANNING FOR COMMENCEMENT AND
SUMMER SUPPORTS

JEZE LOPEZ, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NextUp/REACH



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

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| What is the purpose? | Who is your audience? | How creative can you be? |
| Can you involve other programs? | Not all your programming should be in May | What is your budget? |

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 finlas week taking place at UC Santa Barbara

Questions?



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Los Angeles Valley College NextUp / Guardian Scholars

Dr. Alex Ojeda



LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE
NextUp / Guardian Scholars
Supporting Foster Youth Success

Foster Care Awareness Month



Hoodie Ceremony / Grad Fest



San Fernando Valley Scholars Network

