HEALING THROUGH THE ARTS

Journey to Change: Rising Above and Realizing Our Full Potential

Oakland, CA
April 28, 2012
COMMUNITY COLLEGE PATHWAYS FOR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH (CCP)

- Focuses on linking community colleges across California to strengthen outcomes for former foster youth
- Achieve postsecondary educational goals
- Access careers with family sustaining wages and advancement opportunities

Community of practice has a particular focus on collective strategies
b2b Learning Community

Laney College
Oakland, California
Learning Community is a partnership between Beyond Emancipation and Laney College’s Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) to support emancipated foster youth to enter, persist & succeed in community college and beyond.
Art transforms. Art shapes us. Incorporating artistic expression into our programs deepens the traditional academic journey.

We will explore three creative outlets and their effects on students’ educational experience:

1. Turf dancing
2. Muralism
3. Poetry
Turf Dancing:

- a free-form dance from urban areas
- nonviolent expression of anger and grief
- resistance to dominant societal expectations of youth of color

VIDEO

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-t01opsPos
Laney College: b2b Learning Community

Larry Alford
b2b student
Scholar
Dancer
b2b students complete 2 years of coursework at Laney College centralized around a single cohort class.

This year, the fourth and final semester for this cohort, students engaged in a mural project.
Outcomes of the mural course:

• Storytelling
• Pictorial journey
• Healing
Laney College: b2b Learning Community

Kendra Ligon
b2b student
Scholar
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HAIKU

b2b students were given an opportunity to express themselves in haiku.

Pressure on my life
Action speaks louder than words
Life always goes on

Success is the key
I can now see my future
Patience will help me

Afraid of my dad
Beating on my mother soul
Never will it end

College is my dream
My heard my life and passion
College is success

Major step in life
Graduating means a lot
Focus on the prize

Laney tryna tame me
Teachers given me C’s
Finals got an A

Driven to success
Live above stereotypes
Not a statistic
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Contact Information

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Hosted by:
MAPS/Guardian Scholars Program, Tutoring Center, EOPS Counselors and just AMAZING people over all!
The Objective:

- Help **foster youth** that have left, or are teetering on the idea of leaving get reintroduced into the wonders of school!

- **Explore** the importance of English, Math, and Art in a **creative** contextualized way!

- **Encourage** alternative methods of approach to English and Math

- Provide a breadth of resources and **connections** for their college **success**!
The Importance of math is discussed amongst peers, tutors, and mentors to help build a foundation to integrate math in everyday life and help students achieve educational goals!

**Start with Math:**

Connecting what we have learned to real life situations, through an expression of feelings and understanding. Utilizing expressive art to make this connection creatively by art!

**Leads into Art:**

Discussions on how to “fit...education goals into one’s life”, and then foster youths’ thoughts on the idea of school!

**Ends with Nourishment & Responsibilities!**
Start with English,

Thoughts of the writing and reading comprehension process in academia was articulated by tutors, peers, mentors, and counselors and how it transfers to life situations.

Leads into Art,

Foster youth developed art tools to comb a spectrum of goals, strengths, and passions in an expressive individualized way!

Ends with Nourishment & Discussion!

Foster youth engaged in conversation amongst tutors, counselors, and mentors about the ventures of school, stackable degrees, paying for school, and much more!
Foster youth connected with tutors, counselors, and mentors on the ventures of goal setting, academia, school, and life...

All the participants, 

Built a relationship, got connected, and reached out to one another with the goal of realizing our passions, setting our educational goals and moving towards our dreams!
Accomplishments

- Fostered **success together** by contextualizing English, Math, Art, and Discussion!

- Developed **relationship** and used mentor modeling techniques!

- Created an **expressive** and open atmosphere for even the most timid student to **initiate** questions!

- **Harmonized** a life tree (seen on the next slide), where foster youth and tutors places self-bios, personal expression **silhouettes**, on a radical tree with the help of **amazing** counselors and staff!
“In amongst the struggles of life, we can create some order.” =)  
– Dameion Renault  
G.S. MAPS Program Specialist
Tired of struggling to get back into school?

Is the professor teaching a speed that seems impossible to keep up at?

Need better time and organizational management?

Do you feel that you're stuck?

If at least one of those or all of the above and them some apply to you, please join our summer Rising Up Institute!
- The courses will be designed to re-introduce the idea of school as an option.
- Learn how to do school with your schedule.
- Create a new way to learn, organize, study....all while doing life in the real world.
- Creating a better future.
Monday:
  9:00am – 10:00am - core algebra and equations that are seen in all levels of math
  10:10 – 10:50  - Artistic work related to what we have learned / creativity
  11:00 – 12:00 - Group discussion on learned material and “make your life schedule fit with your education goals”

Tuesday:
  9:00 – 10:00    English preparation for reading and creative writing (Reading Apprentice)
  10:10 – 10:50  - Artistic work related to what we have learned / creativity
  11:00 – 12:00 - Group discussion on learned and “financial aid”

Wednesday: Same class as Monday
  6:00pm – 7:00pm core algebra and equations that are seen in all levels of math
  7:10 – 7:50  - Artistic work related to what we have learned / creativity
  8:00 – 9:00    Group discussion on learned material and “time management”

Thursday: Same class as Tuesday
  6:00pm – 7:00pm English preparation for reading and creative writing (Reading Apprentice)
  7:10 – 7:50  - Artistic work related to what we have learned / creativity
  8:00 – 9:00    Group discussion on learned and “study habits”
THE DE ANZA COLLEGE SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Donna Fung, De Anza College
COLLEGE COURSES

“Writing It Real: Creative Non-Fiction and Memoir Writing” (4)
“Special Topics in Counseling” (2)
“Topics in Social Science” (1)
“Self Assessment” (4)
“Life Skills for Higher Education (4)

EXPRESSIVE WORKSHOPS (The route to the required autobiography)
Photography
Scrolls
Poetry
Performance
VARYING PROGRAM ELEMENTS/Special Workshop Topics

✓ SAT Prep
✓ HS Exit Exam Help
✓ Career Assessments/Online career tools
✓ Scholarship Search
✓ Turning 18
✓ Health Awareness
✓ Sexual Health
✓ Substance Abuse
✓ Learning Styles
✓ Multiple Intelligences
✓ Any theme or topic that jumps out during the application/selection process

NON VARYING PROGRAM ELEMENTS

✓ Mandatory one-day Orientation
✓ A complete application
✓ Weekly college tour field trips
✓ Tutoring (students self select; individual and small group)
✓ Food, food, food
THE EVOLVED END GOALS

✓ Gain a sense of personal empowerment
✓ Know the power of their voice

THE CELEBRATION

✓ Joy (exhibit)
✓ Slice of Life (Snippets)
✓ Joy (Student recognitions)
For More Information

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