

JBAY

CLP | Career  
Ladders  
Project

# Dual Enrollment for Foster Youth

## Toward Effective Practice

02.23.22

webinar

Speakers

**Chris Dech**, Riverside Community College District

**Jessika Bohannon**, Riverside City College

**Iris Gomez**, Riverside City College

# Today

Why dual enrollment for foster youth?

Report and student profile

Riverside City College

Student perspective

Promising practices

Recommendations

# Today's presenters



**Chris Dech**  
Project Director  
Foster Youth Support Network  
Riverside Community College  
District



**Jessika Bohannon**  
Dual Enrollment  
Coordinator, Student  
Resource Specialist  
Riverside City College



**Iris Gomez**  
Student and Peer Mentor  
Riverside City College

# Project technical assistance

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**Debbie Raucher**  
Director of Education  
John Burton Advocates  
for Youth



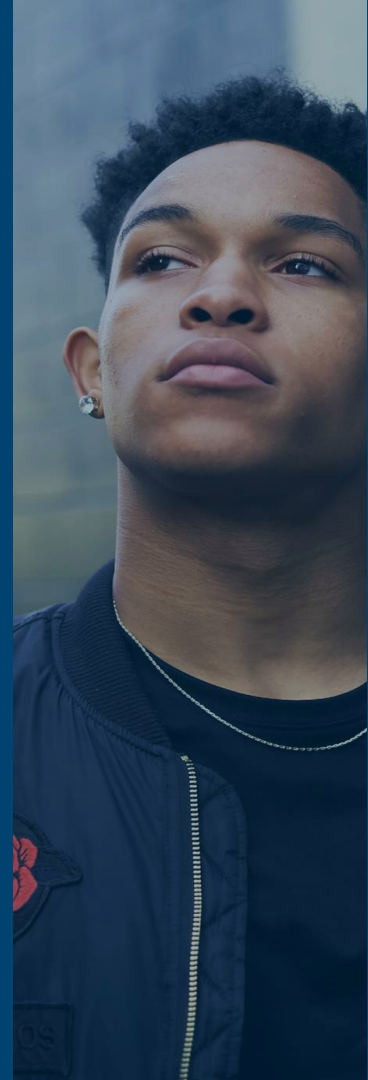
**Dr. Naomi Castro**  
Senior Director  
Career Ladders Project



## About CLP

Career Ladders Project promotes equity-minded community college redesign.

We collaborate with colleges and their partners to discover, develop, and disseminate effective practices. Our policy work, research, and direct efforts with colleges lead to system change—and enable more students to attain certificates, degrees, transfers, and career advancement.



## About JBAY

John Burton Advocates for Youth improves the quality of life for youth in California who have been in foster care or homeless by advocating for better laws, training communities to strengthen local practices and conducting research to inform policy solutions.

# Why

Dual enrollment students

Graduate high school at higher rates

Enter and complete college at higher rates

Strong outcomes for men, students of color, low-income students and first generation students

# Report

## Report on pilot project

- 3 sites
- 16 months
- 20 students

## Student profile

*Link in the chat*



# Dual Enrollment for Foster Youth



# Foster Youth Support Network

**RCCD**

**RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT**

MORENO VALLEY COLLEGE | NORCO COLLEGE | RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE

- Regional Collaborative for foster youth success
- RCCD colleges provide direct college transition support for foster youth in feeder high schools

# FYSN Partners

Riverside Community College District

Riverside County Office of Education

Riverside DPSS

Oak Grove - Thrive Independent Living Program

Local K-12 Districts

Transitional Housing Programs

Community Organizations

# Foster Youth Transition Support



Moreno Valley USD  
Val Verde USD



Corona-Norco USD



Alvord USD  
Jurupa USD  
Riverside USD

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# Resource Specialist Services



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College and Career Preparation (CCGI)

Completing college applications

Filling out FAFSA/Chafee/CADAA

Follow-through on required financial aid forms

Assistance with matriculation and registration

Connections to resources in the community  
(housing, basic needs)

Provide warm hand-off to campus support  
program (Guardian Scholars)

# Pilot Funding

## **Dedicated Resource Specialist time:**

- Identify and onboard foster youth
- Collaborate on information sessions - caregivers/HS staff/ILP classes

## **Increased hours for Guardian Scholars Activities Clerk:**

- Provided weekly check-in meetings with participating students
- Referrals to college supports (tutoring, writing lab)

**Offered stipends for successful course completion**

# Leveraging Technology



## PowerBI Dashboard

- Updated daily, tracks all foster youth applicants to RCCD - special admit flag identifies those seeking dual enrollment

## REACH CRM

- Communication and case management database
- Automated marketing campaign - direct to students

# Implementation

## Approach

Integrate students into existing College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) courses

Greater chance of matching student interests to available courses

## Outreach

- Email/text message marketing
- Phone calls
- School visits
- HS Counselor info sessions
- ILP life skills class presentations



# Onboarding Assistance

RCC Application

Parent/Guardian and High School Approval Forms

Student Transcript

Course Registration

# Enrolled Student Support

## Individual:

Frequent check-ins on course progress (phone/text)

Navigating college systems, online learning environment



## Group Workshops:

Orientation

Financial Literacy

Study Skills\*

Career Exploration\*

\*planned Spring/Fall 2022

# Outcomes

**39 foster youth** supported with enrollment process (all semesters)

**Spring 2021:** 6 foster youth enrolled, 4 completed

**Fall 2021:** 2 foster youth enrolled, 2 completed

**Spring 2022:** 8 foster youth enrolled

# Challenges and Learning Opportunities

Covid/Remote Learning

RCCD Vaccine Mandate (Fall 2021)

GPA Requirement Perception

Paperwork and process

# Positives!

New counselor connections (high school career centers)

Partnership with RCC Associate Dean of Educational Partnerships

Student Success



**Iris  
Gomez**  
Student  
Perspective

## Experience

What was helpful

What educators should know

What foster youth should know

# Promising Practices

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Staffing - adequate and trained

Support - focused, tangible, asset-based

Institutional - across departments, identify and remove barriers

Cross-institutional - relationships

# Policy Recommendations

## College and high school policy

- Built-in not added-on
- Training for Instructors, Counselors and Support Staff
- Removing barriers

## State policy

- Clarify excused-withdrawals
- Allow County Offices of Education Access to CCAP Partnerships
- Offer wide latitude in Determining Satisfactory Academic Progress



# Policy Updates

## Proposed state budget

- \$500 million for dual enrollment
- Funding for foster youth support programs
  - \$6 million for UCs
  - \$12 million for CSUs
  - \$20 million for CCs

## Legislation

- [SB 885](#) - expand access to NextUp for foster youth at community college
- [AB 102](#) - includes County Offices of Education in CCAP dual enrollment
- [AB 1948](#) - LCFF funds for students in foster care or experiencing homelessness

Go to <https://jbay.org/advocate/#sb885> to support foster youth program funding

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Thank you!

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[www.careerladdersproject.org](http://www.careerladdersproject.org)

