

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN
FOSTER CARE CREATE THE
LIFE THEY WANT.

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**“SO I GOT INTO
COLLEGE...NOW
WHAT?”**

**TIPS AND TRICKS TO
MANAGE YOUR TRANSITION**

WORKSHOP C2

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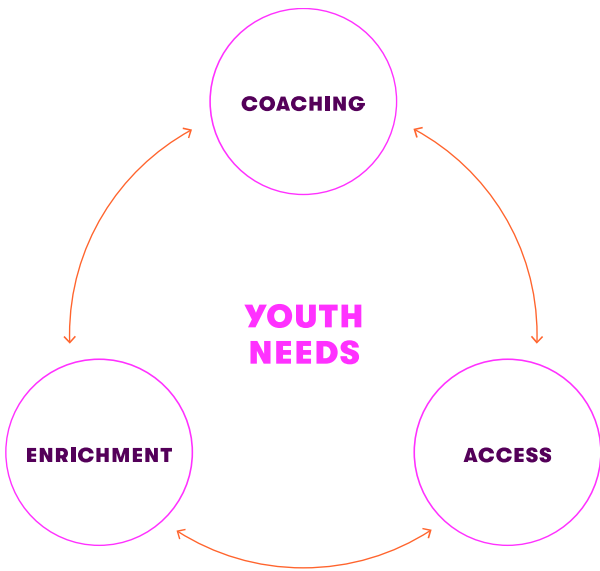
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WHAT IS PIVOTAL?

Pivotal specializes in guiding foster youth towards academic and employment success
Santa Clara & San Mateo counties, CA



We provide direct education and employment support.

Coaching

High School & Post-Secondary

Enrichment

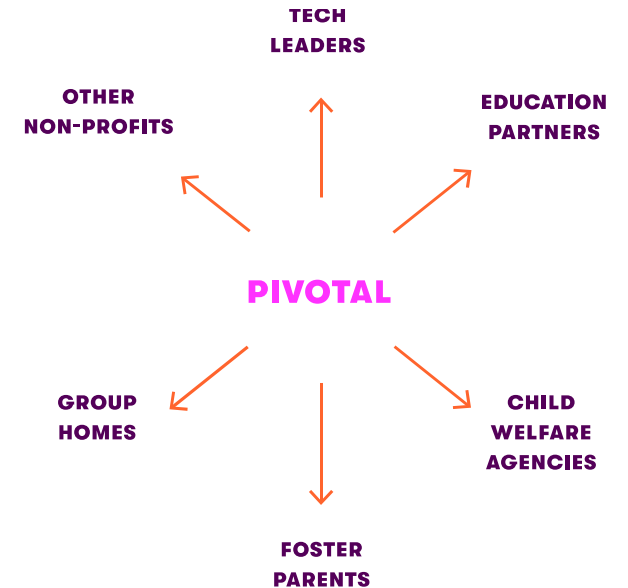
STEM, leadership activities, professional development trainings, etc.

Access

Tutoring, internships, college scholarships

Partnering with the community

Government, employers, schools, etc.



We're changing the ecosystem to better serve foster youth.

WHAT'S 1 THING YOU WISH YOU KNEW
BEFORE ENTERING COLLEGE?

OR

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE
TO KNOW ABOUT COLLEGE NOW?

PIVOTAL SCHOLAR
SARAH GENTLE

#1 PICKING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

University or Community College

- Apply in high school = University
- Apply in high school/ Going back to school after taking time off = Community college

Location & Services offered

- Close to current/future housing?
- How long does it get to campus? How will I get there?
- Close to support systems?
- What foster youth specific programs are available?

#1 PICKING THE RIGHT COLLEGE

Housing & Work

- Foreseen moving ahead? Stable?
- Will I need to work? Is it close to work?

Other

- Is childcare offered?
- Does school offer diverse class times?
- What will the financial aid package be?

#2 BEYOND ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS (A&R)

- **ALWAYS put home address on CCC apply = To receive IN-STATE TUITION**
 - Not doing this puts you at risk of being registered as an Out-of-State student. Much harder to prove residency!
 - Get a P.O. Box, talk to someone you trust to get mail from, talk to an agency you work with to get mail delivered there
- **ALWAYS declare an Associates Degree major when applying**
 - If you are unsure of what you want to do because it is not set in stone
 - Not doing so could make you ineligible for financial aid
 - If you chose certificate program, may not be eligible for full aid
- **Check to see on registration statements or in student portal what fees you owe & know your academic calendar**

#2 BEYOND ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS (A&R)

Common Documents Needed	
Document	Importance
Residency Documents	Show to pay in-state fees - There is a list but common documents to show proof: State Id or High School transcripts, etc.

#2 BEYOND ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS (A&R)

Dates to Know! Found on your School Academic Calendar		
Date	Meaning	What happens
Add/Drop	Able to switch out classes or drop	Nothing (unless you were disbursed FA; will have to pay back based on number of units)
Census	Before date = As if you never took the classes After date = Classes are permanent and will show up on your transcript as an attempt	
Withdraw	<u>Before date:</u> Classes on transcript as (W) <u>After date:</u> Classes on transcripts as a grade (A/B/C/D/F/NC/NP)	<u>Before date:</u> PACE affected, but not GPA (may have to pay back some FA) <u>After date:</u> PACE & GPA both affected

#3 BEYOND FINANCIAL AID

- **Apply for FAFSA/DREAM Act EVERY YEAR!**
 - Oct 1st- March 2nd to get the most eligible FA
 - List all schools you MIGHT attend, just because you put the school on FAFSA/DREAM Act does not mean it has to happen
- **After FAFSA/DREAM Act is filed check in with the FA office! They ask for additional documents needed to complete your FA File!**
 - You will NOT receive FA until the FA file is complete
 - Know how you will receive your disbursed money (get a bank account for direct deposit)
- **Create a Webgrants account on INTERNET EXPLORER (manages Cal grants & Chafee)**
 - If every attend a different school make sure to update your school of attendance to new school attending
 - Make sure you are verified by your county
- **Know what is needed to maintain FA at your college campus**
 - GPA (Grade Point Average) & PACE (units that you attempt and complete) requirements

#3 BEYOND FINANCIAL AID

Common Documents Needed to Complete Your FA FILE		
Document	Importance	How to get
Letter of Dependency	<p>Verify were in care and NOT a dependent of care-giver</p> <p>Usually filed with an Independent Verification form</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social worker - County education specialist - Ombudsman (know your full name, SSN, DOB & county of dependency) <p>Call: 1-877-846-1602</p> <p>Email: fosteryouthhelp@dss.ca.gov</p>
<p><u>One of these:</u></p> <p>Tax Transcript</p> <p>W2</p> <p>Non-filing letter</p>	<p>Tax Transcript- Show filed taxes</p> <p>W2- Showed that worked, but did not file taxes</p> <p>Non-filing letter- Show did not work or file taxes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tax Transcripts (IRS) - W2 (IRS or Employers) - Non-filing letter (IRS) <p>https://sa.www4.irs.gov/irfof-tra/login</p>
High School (HS) Diploma	<p>Verify graduated HS with diploma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If did not graduate HS you CANNOT receive financial aid - If you graduated with a certificate equivalency you CANNOT receive financial aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School district you graduated from (contact your school)

#4 COMMON ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Resource	Importance	Service
General Counseling Department	Academic counseling: where find out classes needed to graduate/transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Counseling (long waits and inconsistent counselor) - Create Ed plan - Pick classes
EOPS/EOP	Program for students who are first-generation students, and could use extra support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as general counseling but with consistent counselor and no long waits - Extra resources (book vouchers, lending library, etc.)
Foster Youth Special Program (Guardian Scholars, Next Up...)	Program just for those from foster-care (every campus has different eligibility requirements)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as EOPS/EOP, but with extra resources such as meal tickets
Student Accessibility Services (DSPS, DSP, ACCESS...)	Program to get accommodations if you have an IEP/504 plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Same as general counseling but with consistent counselor and no long waits - Extra resources (special tutoring, tools needed based on accommodations)
Transfer Department	Place to learn about options after community college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Help with transfer applications - Get university information
Clubs	Create community on campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get involved!

#4 COMMON ON-CAMPUS RESOURCES

Common Documents Needed			
Document	Importance	How to get	Give to
HS Transcripts	Allow counselors to know what your Math and English levels are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School district - County education specialist 	- Counselor (Main)
Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) 504 Plan	Get the same academic accommodations as in high school	- School district (IEP/504 dept.)	- Counselor (Accommodations Dept.)
Letter of Dependency	Verify when you were in care	- Same as FA	FY Special Program

#5 GENERAL HELPFUL TIPS

- o Student ID is your social security on campus! Know it!
- o Utilize Priority registration (you register for classes earlier than everyone else)
 - o Important: Know when classes are posted
 - o Perks: Get the classes you need with the teachers you want at the times that you want/need
- o Talk to teachers and other students
 - o Networks = opportunities
- o Have to work? Get a campus job (flexible and rewarding)

SUCCESS SKILLS

- o Need to know yourself. Your WHY for school?
- o What are your success skills, strengths and challenges?
- o Who are your key supports?
- o How will you overcome challenges and unexpected hurdles?
- o What else do you need to know to help you improve on skills?



DREAM.