PATH Scholars ended the fall 2015 semester with a visit to CSU, San Francisco. The John Burton Foundation (JBF) hosted a holiday celebration for campus support programs in Northern California. This was our first year in attendance. The JBF is a non-profit organization, dedicated to improving the quality of life for California’s homeless, foster and former foster youth. Four students met Senator John Burton and shared with him how the JBF has benefitted them in their educational journey. This semester, 28 students received the Burton Book Fund, which provided up to $350 for each student to purchase textbooks. The JBF also helped 6 students with a critical need, ranging from purchasing eye glasses to covering a hefty PG&E deposit, totaling close to $2,500! These resources have helped students remove an enormous financial stressor, allowing them to focus on their academic goals. On behalf of PATH Scholars, I give the John Burton Foundation a huge thank you! For more info on the JBF, visit: http://www.johnburtonfoundation.org/jla/

Best wishes for the New Year!

- Marina Fox, PATH Scholars
Program Coordinator
www.csuchico.edu/fosteryouth/
2015 Blueprint Poems, by Debbie Raucher

These rhymes were shared at this year’s Blueprint for Success Conference, a dynamic event combining meaningful networking opportunities with in-depth workshops presented by professionals with a passion and aptitude for supporting foster youth. Debbie is the CA College Pathways Project Manager at the John Burton Foundation.

For Students

We are so incredibly honored today
To have so many students who from their studies broke away
To join us in learning and to share their perspective
And to bring with them an energy that makes our event feel quite festive
We know that your paths here may have been rough
But we also know that you youth are made of strong stuff
For those of us who are older with our emerging grey hair
We’re thrilled that with you this day we will share
It’s a challenging task, to work towards a degree
Whether you’re in high school, or college, or at a university
That you’ve taken it on, is extremely audacious
And for your presence here today we’re extremely gracious
Once this conference is over it’s back to exams
And posting the highlights up on Instagram

For Campus Staff

The staff at a university or college
Have an amazing amount of useful knowledge
They know all about financial aid
And what to do when you don’t get paid
If you’re struggling they’ll help you find a tutor
If your mind gets clogged they’re like Roto-Rooter
When you need a sympathetic ear
When you start to be overwhelmed by fear
You know exactly where to turn
To ensure that your degree you earn
The impact of campus staff I cannot overstate
Nor should anyone their impact, dare underestimate
Towards graduation you stay on track
Because the campus support staff have got your backs

In a recent survey, 76% of students reported that “Cultural Activities” were either Very helpful or Extremely helpful to their overall success as a student this semester!

*More survey results to follow...

PATHsgiving Dinner

The holidays can be a difficult time for many, but it can be especially tough for current/former foster youth and homeless/unaccompanied youth. This thanksgiving, we celebrated and shared our “attitude of gratitude” with one another. Students were treated to a fine dining experience at Fifth Street Steakhouse, where we shared a meal and time together as a PATH Scholars family.

In a recent survey, 76% of students reported that “Cultural Activities” were either Very helpful or Extremely helpful to their overall success as a student this semester!