



Greater Washington Academy

THRIVING PATHWAYS PRESENTATION

By: Brian Ritchey
Program Director

What is *First Star Greater Washington Academy*?

- The First Star Greater Washington Academy provides intense programming and complete wrap around services to ensure that its foster youth develop and retain the skills to graduate high school, enter college and ultimately graduate college.
- This intensive program, which includes a 4 week residential component on the campus of the George Washington University (GWU) is both expensive and time consuming.

Academy's Thriving Pathway Destination



Where we want to be in five years:

- It's June 30, 2021 and all 30 of our Academy youth who started in July 2017 have graduated high school and have been accepted into college, both 2 and 4 year, most with scholarship money. The second group of youth who started in July 2019 are all on track to graduate high school and a new group of rising 9th grade students have been accepted into the Academy and will begin their first summer immersion in July 2021.



Academy's Thriving Pathway Destination



Results:

Our best scale for efficiency and effectiveness is 30 youth.

High School Graduation

- 100% high school graduation for Academy Youth
- 100% college enrollment for Academy Youth

College Readiness

- All students have an active college transcript. The credits earned are for actual college level classes taught by University professors, giving each youth a preview of the rigor of typical college courses.
- Improved academics, reading comprehension, memory and speed, improved psycho social targets, improved stability and improved matriculation.
- Life skills training that prepares our youth for independence.
- Youth in the Academy learned a minimum of 400 new SAT level vocabulary words.
- Through the Reading Plus program our youth increased their reading comprehension by a minimum of 8 grade levels.

Higher Retention Rate

- Higher retention rates due to full time Family Advocate Position

Academy's Thriving Pathway Destination



Return on Investment

By June 30, 2021, 30 foster youth will have graduated high school and been accepted into college at the cost of \$26,000 per youth. This 100% graduation and 100% college enrollment rate can be compared to National stats which show that only 50% of foster youth graduate high school and only 20% enroll in college.

- *No other group in the DC Metropolitan area reaches these stats*
- The return on the investment of \$26,000 per youth is high school graduation, college readiness, college matriculation, and integration into the work force. The human gain cannot be measured by just the individual youth, but by his/her siblings, foster siblings, and peers. Their example will have an exponential affect.
- The alternatives to foster youth entrance into higher education are staggering.
 - *Incarceration rate for male foster youth is 64% nationally*
 - *Incarceration for female foster youth is 32.5% nationally*
 - *The homeless rate for foster youth is 24% nationally*