

TEXAS CENTER  
FOR THE JUDICIARY

# 2018 Foster Care & Education Summit

Postsecondary Opportunities

Jackie Davis, Dr. Monica Faulkner,

Hon. Katrina Griffith, and Lorena Knight

July 9, 2018

# Foster Care and Higher Education Data





# THE ROAD TO COLLEGE

# TEXAS FOSTER YOUTH & POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

*Presented by*  
**Monica Faulkner, PhD, LMSW**

 The University of Texas at Austin  
Texas Institute for  
Child & Family Wellbeing  
Steve Hicks School of Social Work

# COHORT OF YOUTH WHO WERE EVER IN CARE

All children who had ever been in foster care

All children who had ever been in foster care who turned 18 between 2008-2009

N= 4,035

Allows us time to calculate

4 year graduation

6 year graduation



2008

2009

2013

2016

147 No SSNs  
33 Duplicate SSNs

## Limitations of cohort

1. Not all youth “aged out” of foster care
2. Youth may have only been in care for a short period of time
3. Not all youth qualify for a waiver

The following analysis includes 3,855 youth who were ever in foster care & who would have turned 18 in FY 2008-2009. (Not all youth would have qualified for the waiver)

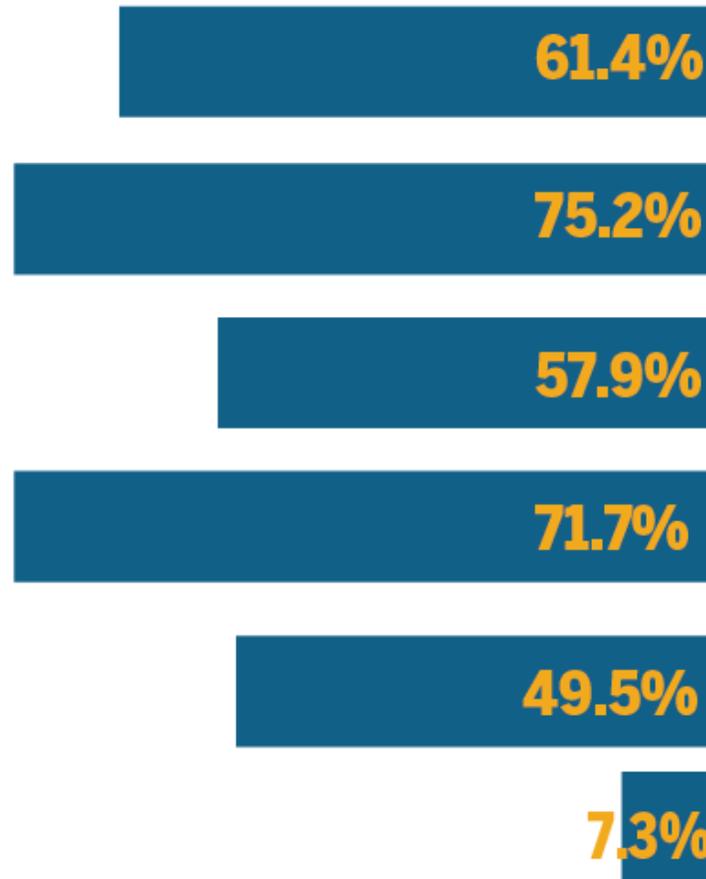
# HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

**33%** of former foster youth have **enrolled** in **higher education** within 7 years of turning 18.

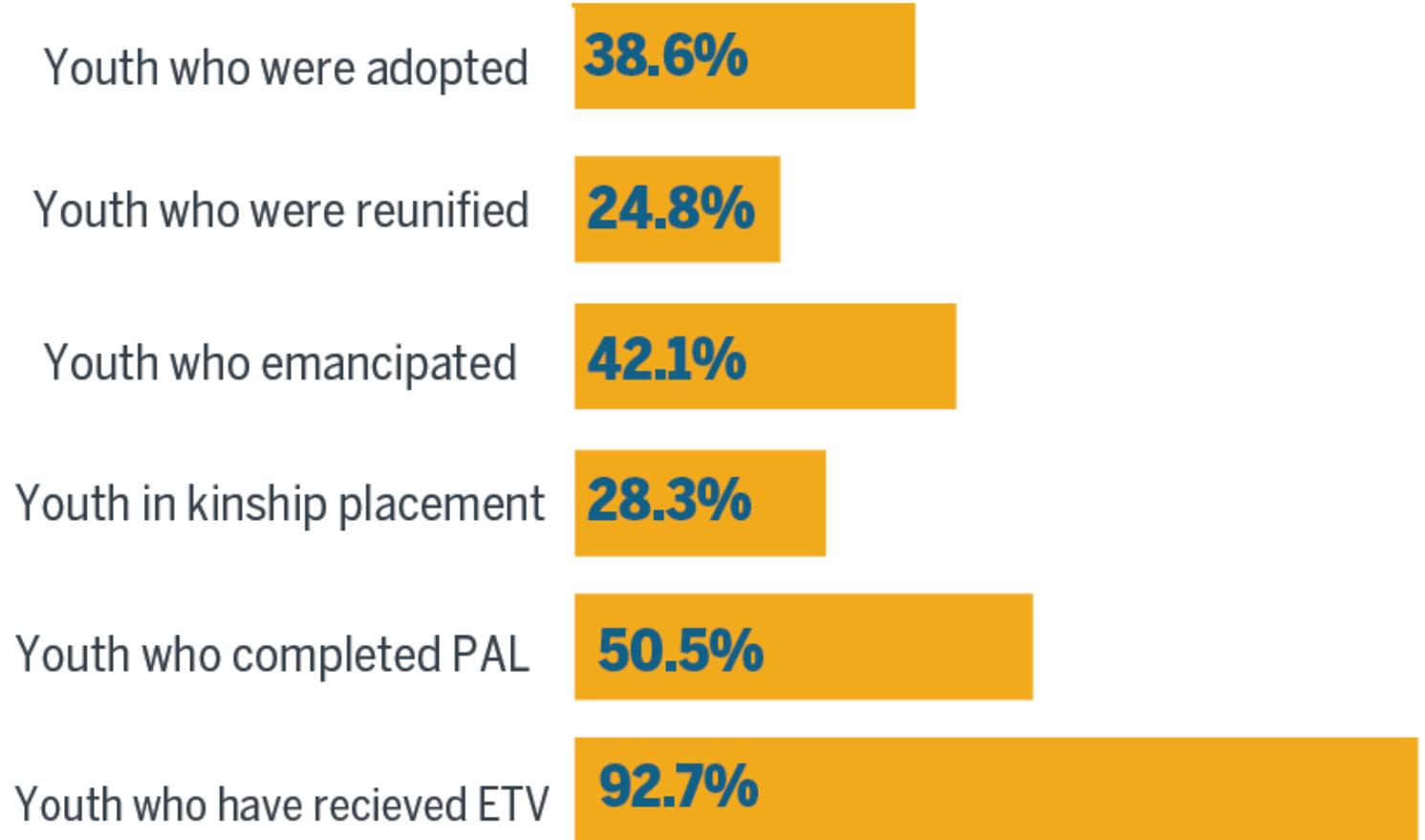
**56%** of high school graduates **enrolled in 2/4 year institutions** in 2009.

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THIS COHORT OF YOUTH WHO WERE EVER IN FOSTER CARE

## Youth who have not enrolled in higher education



## Youth who have enrolled in higher education



# DAYS IN CARE

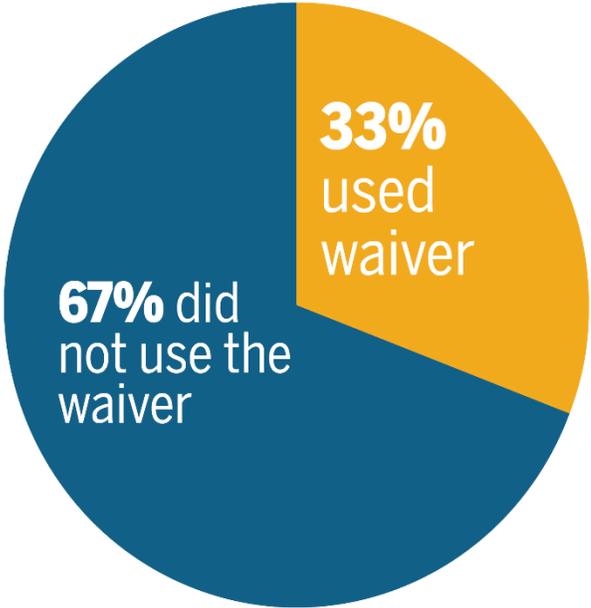
of youth who have enrolled,  
youth had an average of:  
**1,405.3** days in care  
**5.32** placement changes

of youth who have not enrolled,  
youth had an average of:  
**1,095.1** days in care  
**5.35** placement changes

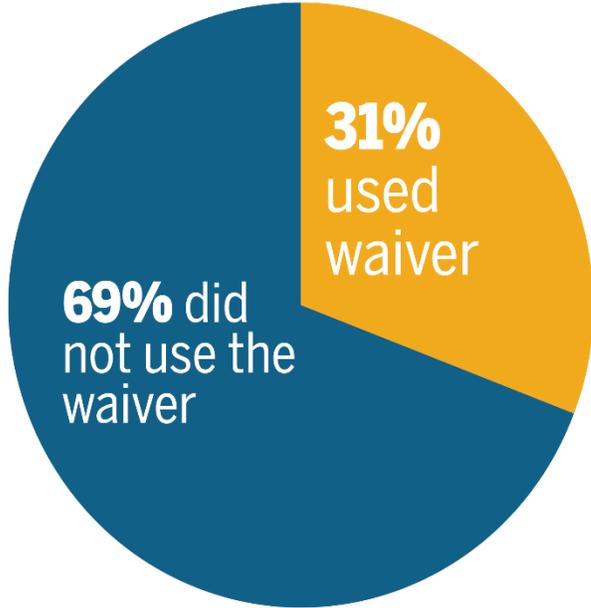
Youth who were in care longer were  
● **more likely to enroll** in higher  
education. ●

# ENROLLMENT & WAIVER USE

## “Traditional College Cohort:” Youth who graduated HS and enrolled in 2009



## Youth who enrolled sometime after the Fall of 2009



\*not all who enrolled would have been eligible for waiver

# HOW MANY YOUTH GRADUATE?



**1.5%** of former foster youth have a **bachelors degree**

**0.5%** of former foster youth have an **associate degree**

**1.5%** of former foster youth have a **certificate**

**96.4%**  
have not obtained  
a degree.

Other studies have shown 2-3% of former foster youth obtain a bachelors degree

# Post-Secondary Supports on Campus



# HIGHER EDUCATION LIAISONS

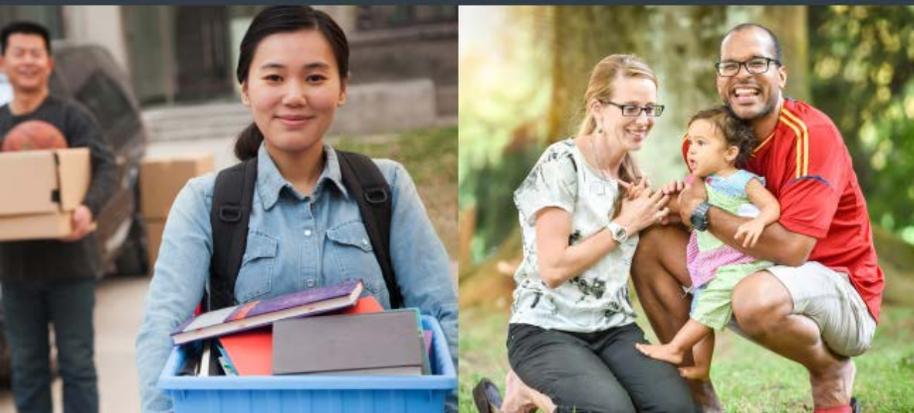


## Texas Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons

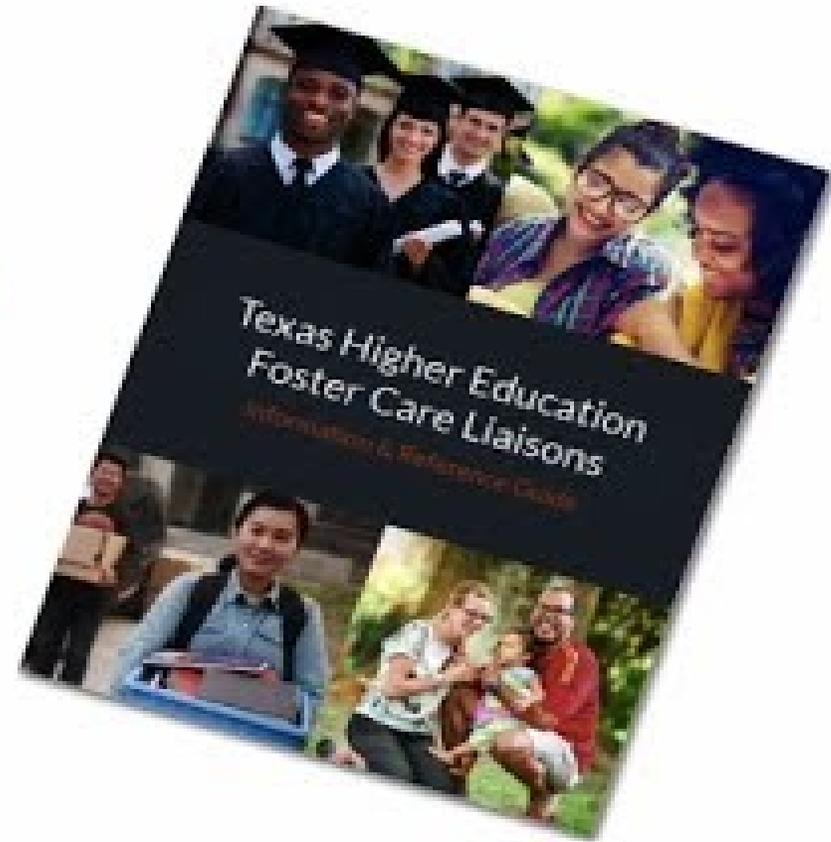
Information & Reference Guide

Under Texas Education Code (TEC) Section 51.9356, each institution of higher **education must appoint at least one employee to serve as a liaison for students formerly in the conservatorship of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services**

**College for All Texans has list of liaisons**



To find out how you can help foster youth thrive in higher education, check out this comprehensive guide on providing resources & support.



# CAMPUS PROGRAMS

- Nationally, there is interest in campus programming
  - Michigan has a thriving program
- Some campuses have targeted programming
  - Early examples include FACES at Texas State, PUSH at University of North Texas
  - More programs are popping up
  - Programs usually emerge from Social Work faculty and/or student services departments
  - Programs provide a variety of supports: emergency financial, help with navigation, comradery
- Education Reach for Texas
- Challenges – Financial Support, Information Sharing

# Points of Contact – Higher Education

- Higher Education Foster Care Liaisons
  - <http://www.collegeforalltexans.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=429>
- THECB Liaison
  - Natalie Coffey - [natalie.coffey@thecb.state.tx.us](mailto:natalie.coffey@thecb.state.tx.us)
- Regional PAL staff
  - [https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child\\_Protection/Youth\\_and\\_Young\\_Adults/Preparation\\_For\\_Adult\\_Living/PAL\\_coordinators.asp](https://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/Youth_and_Young_Adults/Preparation_For_Adult_Living/PAL_coordinators.asp)

# TWC Career Education Resources



# LMCI Can Help Your Students

...



# Texas Career Check:

<http://www.texascareercheck.com/>

- Explore careers options
  - By endorsement
  - By career cluster
  - By hot jobs
  - By career interest assessment
- Explore colleges/universities
- Play a game



HOME

EXPLORE CAREERS ▾

EXPLORE EDUCATION ▾



LEARN MORE!



Follow Texas Workforce Commission

Enter your email address

Submit

Feedback FAQ



# Use the Search Bar to Tie Jobs to Talents



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Texas Career Check website. On the left is the logo, which consists of a blue star with a green checkmark inside, followed by the text "TEXAS Career Check". To the right of the logo is a search bar containing the text "Search Texas Career Check" and a close button "X". A large yellow arrow points from the left towards the search bar. Below the search bar is a horizontal menu with three items: "HOME", "EXPLORE CAREERS" (with a dropdown arrow), and "EXPLORE EDUCATION" (with a dropdown arrow). The main content area is divided into two sections. The left section features a photograph of a young Black boy in a red wheelchair, smiling, in a library setting. The right section contains promotional text: "What's New?" followed by "- High School Graduation Plan" and "Coming Soon!" followed by "- Pop a Job!". Below this is the Texas Workforce Commission logo and the LMCI (Labor Market and Career Information) logo.

# Texas Reality Check:

<http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/>

- Great for \$\$-motivated students
- Great for undecided students
- Career exploration
- Lifestyle options lead exploration

## Will you be able to afford the lifestyle you want?

It's difficult to predict the future, but it's never too early to start planning for it. Our tool will show you how much your living expenses will cost, and the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for them.



It's time for a Reality Check.



### Lifestyle Calculator

- ✓ Walk through expenses you'll incur each month
- ✓ Decide how much to spend on your lifestyle
- ✓ Determine your minimum salary needs
- ✓ Explore occupations that earn the salary you'll need

[Start Your Reality Check](#) >



### Occupation Calculator

Choose an occupation, then review your expenses to see if its salary can support your lifestyle.

[Get Started](#) >

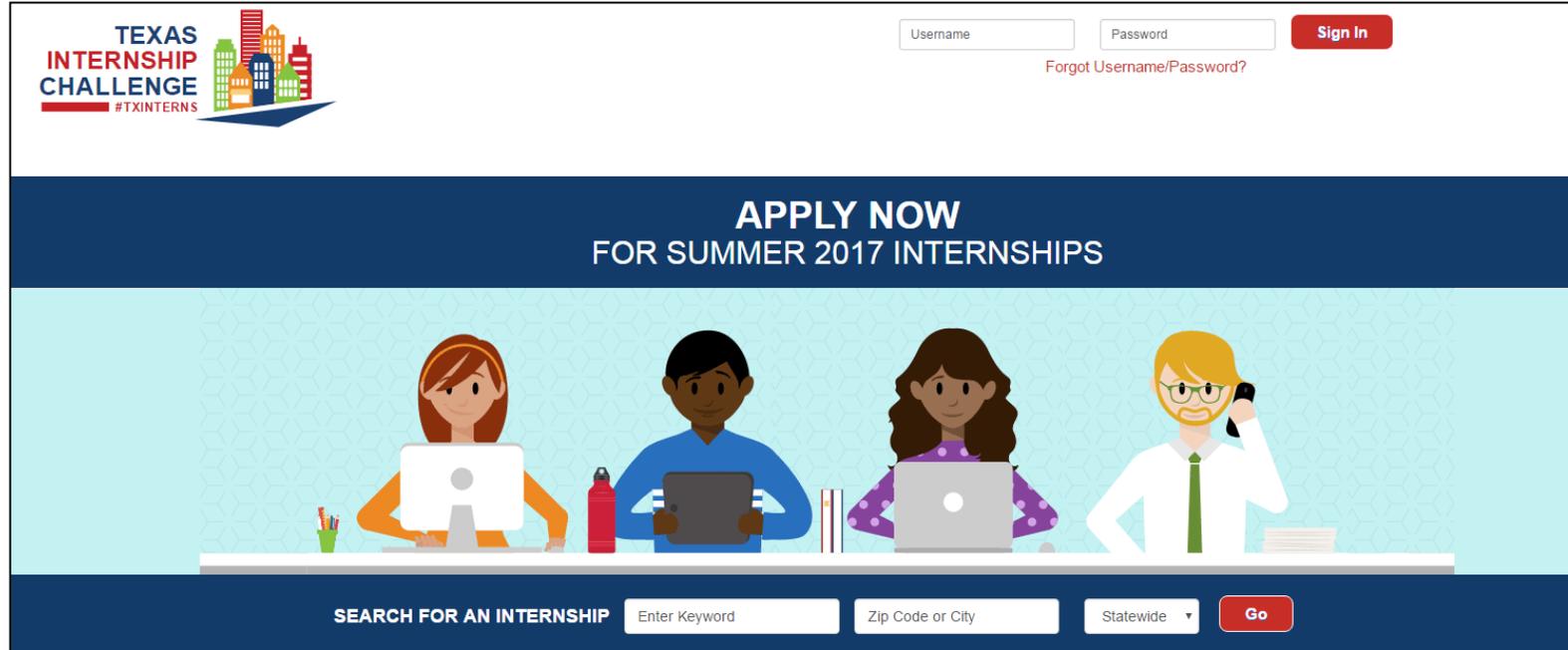


### Quick View Calculator

Skip the guided tour & quickly tally up your expenses to compare costs with different occupations.

[Get Started](#) >

# Texas Internship Challenge



A campaign to increase internships  
for Texas students

# Benefits of Registering

Employers prefer candidates with internship experience.

**60%** of employers prefer relevant work experience.

---

Students gain a competitive advantage through internships.

**73%** of interns are offered a full-time position.



**TEXAS  
INTERNSHIP  
CHALLENGE**  
#TXINTERNS

**Apply Today!**  
TXInternshipChallenge.com

## **Workforce Systems Support Desk**

Phone: 512-463-4210

[wfsupportdesk@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:wfsupportdesk@twc.state.tx.us)



TXInternshipChallenge.com

# Publications & Alternative Tools We Recommend for Career Exploration Help



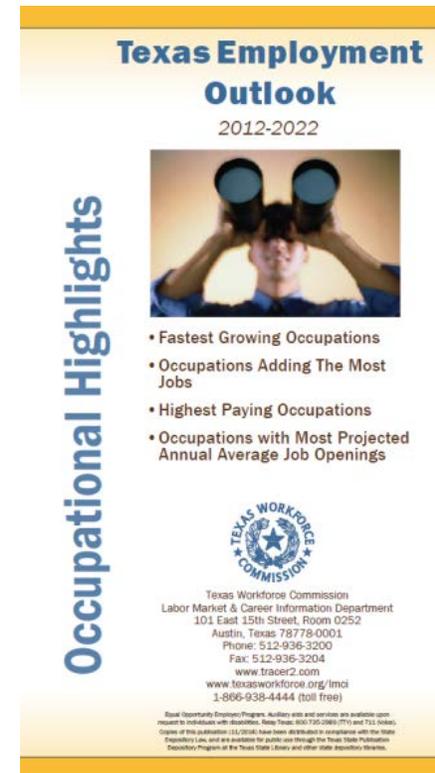
- Telephone Hotline
- Print Publications
- Classroom Poster Sets
- Publications that provide
  - Projections
  - Soft Skill Help
  - College Selection Guidance
  - HB 5 Endorsement Help
  - College Readiness Info

# Career Hotline:

- 1-800-822-PLAN (7526)
- 24/7 automated line
- Get career or college information
  - ▣ 3 careers
  - ▣ 3 colleges/universities
  - ▣ Can call more than once
  - ▣ Anyone can call
- Counselor Packets

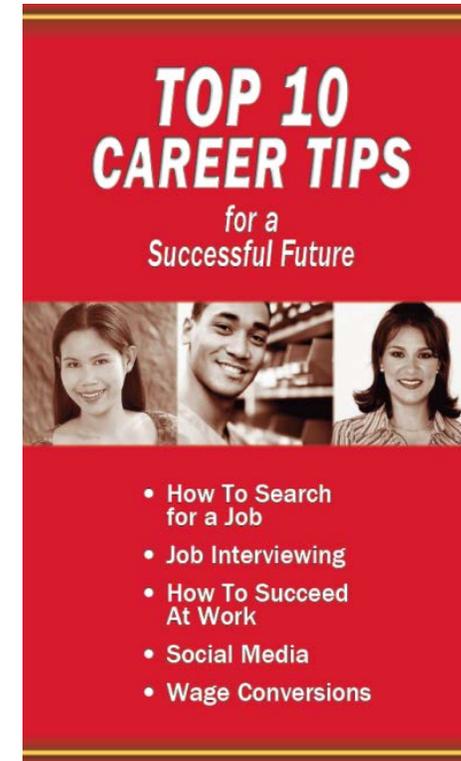
# Occupation Outlook Handout

- State Occupation Projections
- Projections through 2024
- Top 30 jobs in several categories:
  - ❑ Fastest growing occupations
  - ❑ Adding the most jobs
  - ❑ Most job postings
  - ❑ Highest paid occupations



# Top 10 Career Tips:

- How to find a job
- How to get the job
- How to keep a job
  - ❑ Employability skills
  - ❑ What employers want
  - ❑ Be an asset not a liability
  - ❑ Social Media Tips





Meet the  
TWC  
Education  
Outreach  
Team

# 3 Specialists Available Currently



Malisa Barnes

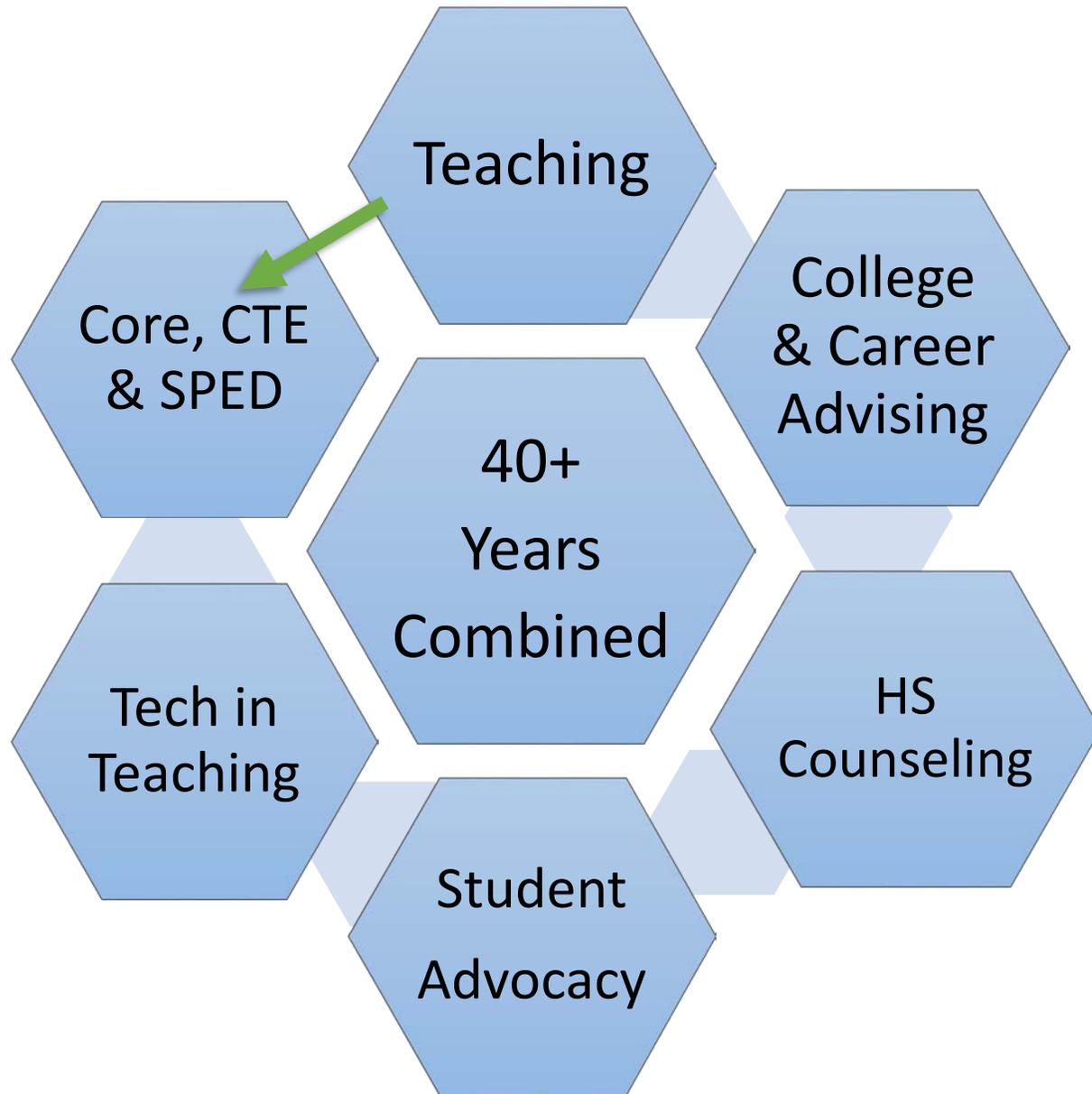


Micah Carpenter



Lori Knight

[careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us)



# Our Collective Experience

# Our Services



Presentations



Resource Demo



PD Sessions



Career Fair Table



Resource Showcase



Selfie Photo Booth

And more . . .

# Our Audiences



- ★ Administrators
- ★ Policy Makers

- ★ CTE Faculty & Staff
- ★ Education Partners

And more . . .

# Sample Topics

Exploring  
Careers

What  
Employers  
Want

Career  
Fit

Navigating  
Our Tools

VR  
Resources

Exploring  
After-HS  
Options

Soft  
Skills

Alternative  
Pathways

Career +  
Education  
Connection

Foster  
Youth  
Resources

Local LMI

Partnering  
with  
Workforce

Using LMI  
Data

Interview  
Skills

Doing  
What  
You Love

Career  
Assessments

And  
more . . .

# Flexibility in All We Do

Participation  
Type

Audience

Venue

Content

Time Constraints



# Invitation Requests

## Information We MUST Have to Obtain Travel Approval



Date



Participation Type



Time



Presentation Topic



Physical Location



# Expected to attend

# #AdultingUpTX



# Contact Us

[www.lmci.state.tx.us](http://www.lmci.state.tx.us)

[careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:careerinformation@twc.state.tx.us)

**#AdultingUpTX**

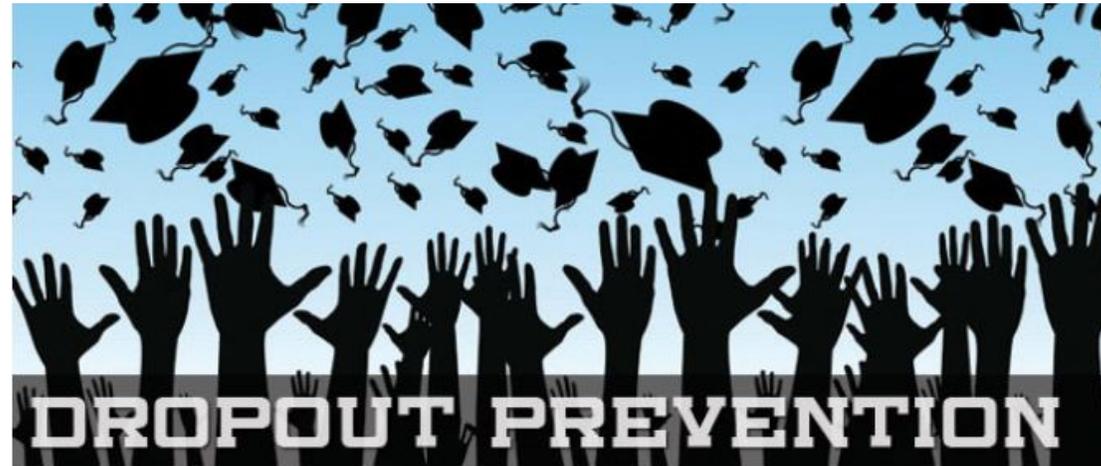
# TWC Foster Care Initiatives



# Foster Youth Education Pilot

Dropout prevention and recovery services to current and former foster care youth.

Provides pathways to post-secondary education and work.



# Pilot Runs 08/17 - 06/19

- Approx. \$1,500,000 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds are identified for the program
- 4 Grant recipients in pilot



# Texas Statewide Foster Youth Conference

Support the multi-agency Foster Youth Initiative to increase the partnership between:

- Transition Centers
- Workforce Development Boards
- Community Colleges
- Schools, and
- Industry





# Conference Topics

- Foster youth perspective on successful transition support
- Training on Labor Market & Career Information tools
- Coordinating local services, focusing on the perspectives of staff in the field

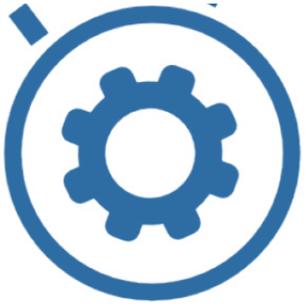




## Resources



- WD 43-11 Priority of Service for Eligible Foster Youth
  - Executive directive to prioritize foster youth for workforce center services (2011/Currently in review for 2018 update)
    - <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/43-11.pdf>
- WD 38-11 Change 1 MOU with DFPS to Serve Foster Youth
  - Executive directive to establish MOUs and formal partnerships with DFPS (2011)
    - <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/38-11c1.pdf>



## Resources



- WD 31-04 Coordination of Services to Foster Youth
  - Executive directive to inform local workforce boards about the needs of foster youth (2004)
    - <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/31-04.pdf>
- TAB 274 Coordination of Services to Foster Youth
  - Technical and interpretive details regarding implementation of 38-11 and 43-11 (2016)
    - <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/files/partners/tab-274-twc.pdf>

# Related Laws



# Tuition and Fee Waiver

- Available at any Texas state supported institution of higher education;
- For eligible students formerly in foster care, reunified, and adopted;
- Lifetime benefit;
- As long as the student enrolls in at least one college or dual credit;
- Before turning 25.

Texas Education Code §§ 54.366, 54.367

# Education & Training Voucher

- Under federal law, eligible youth entitled to up to \$5,000/year to cover education-related expenses (i.e. college related expenses including rent, books, utilities, childcare, computers, personal expenses).

42 U.S. Code § 677

# Extended Foster Care

- Federal law (Fostering Connections Act) allows a youth to voluntarily remain in foster care after their 18th birthday.
- Youth ages 18 –21 must meet certain requirements such as staying in school, working, or participating in a job training program.
- Supervised independent living (SIL) allows a youth to live in residential foster care in a more independent setting (e.g. college dorm).

*See Texas Family Code Ch. 263, Subch. G*

# Creating a College Going Culture



# Creating a College Culture from the Bench

- Frequent Permanency Hearings After Final Order for High School (PAL DOCKET)
- Small Dockets allow for personalization
- Feed the body to feed the mind



# Supporting Educational Needs and Goals

- Ask them
- Teach them
- Create a Plan
- Repeat

what  
are  
your  
goals?



# Local SIL Programs in Colleges

- Engage an established local SIL
- Set meeting between College Leaders and SIL
- Engage Larry Burgess at DFPS State Office

# Contact Information

**Jackie Davis**

Supervisor

Dallas CASA

[www.iamjackiedavis.com](http://www.iamjackiedavis.com)

**Hon. Katrina Griffith**

Judge

CPS Project Court

[Katrina\\_Griffith@Justex.net](mailto:Katrina_Griffith@Justex.net)

**Dr. Monica Faulkner**

Director

TX Institute for Child & Family

Wellbeing

[mfaulkner@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:mfaulkner@mail.utexas.edu)

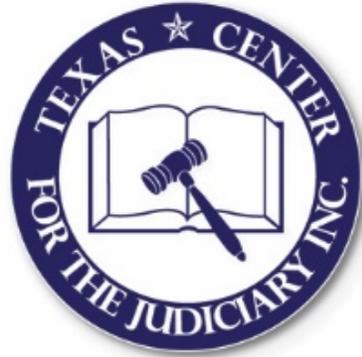
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Texas Workforce Commission

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—★—  
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Thank you for attending this presentation!