

## FCE Fall 2024 Newsletter

Dear FCE Community,

I hope that you are all doing well. I am thrilled to report that FCE has a lot of good news to share with you. As always, I have included some of the highlights in my letter below. I hope that this will demonstrate the impact that FCE continues to make in our local community.

### Summer Activities

#### Students Made the Most of the Summer!

FCE encourages our students to engage in meaningful summer activities. Students gained invaluable experience by volunteering at local organizations, working at paid internships, participating in programs, or taking summer classes. For example, Jesse interned with Genesys Works, Alexander participated in a self-paced coding class to enhance his skills, Elizabeth and Jose were in the Meta Summer Academy, Diego enjoyed a climate change program at Stanford University, Mari traveled to Japan with a grant she received to do research on sustainability, Lorenzo worked as a lifeguard, and Marlyn was a Kaiser Permanente Launch Intern.

#### Career Panels

FCE is committed to increasing our students' awareness and preparedness for a career beyond college. This past summer, we expanded our career exploration and readiness program by collaborating with 10 different corporations and organizations, exposing our College Bound and College Success students to careers they may not have heard about or thought they could attain. They met with employees who shared their career paths and explained why they love the work that they do. Thank you to our partners at Adobe Pet Hospital, Amgen, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Cisco, City of East Palo Alto, Golden State Warriors, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Pivot Interiors, Salesforce, and Stanford Law School!



*Summer Career Panels (Amgen, Salesforce, and Cisco)*

#### Summer Orientations

During the summer months, our College Bound students participated in two- to five-day orientations with the goal of building community, setting expectations, teaching study skills, and emphasizing soft skills like time management and self-advocacy.



2024 Summer Orientations

### No Summer Melt Here!

For many rising college freshmen, it can be easy to become overwhelmed during the summer before they are supposed to depart for school. Summer melt is when high school graduates who are accepted to college end up not enrolling in the fall. A Harvard University study shows that this is more prevalent amongst low-income students. Financial aid concerns, administrative deadlines, lack of support, and endless emails are some of the contributors to summer melt. **FCE ensures that our students start college in the fall, and receive support and programs to keep them engaged and enrolled.** This fall, 100% of our College Bound graduates enrolled and started at a 4-year college or community college.

To help prevent summer melt, all College Bound graduates are required to attend College Transition Week. In this group programming, which occurs in July, our students spend five days focusing on different aspects of college preparation: academics, healthy relationships, finances, time management, and study skills. We also hold mandatory 1:1 meetings with a program manager for each rising college freshmen before they start classes. These meetings focus specifically on student goals and help them figure out the steps they need to take towards academic achievement. College freshman have ongoing touchpoints with program managers throughout the year to ensure that they have the support to ultimately graduate! *Special thanks to Vivi Levenberg for her research and help writing this piece*



College Bound Class of 2024 Graduates

**Move and Welcome Back Celebration**

We have officially moved into our new home at 687 Bay Road! Students and staff all love our new space! Our Welcome Back Celebration brought students, families, volunteers, and staff together to kickoff the school year!



2024 FCE Welcome Back Celebration

## Excelencia in Education

FCE was selected as one of five nationally recognized program finalists! We are grateful for the recognition and committed to our mission!

**Excelencia IN EDUCATION!**  
EXAMPLES **of** EXCELENCIA

*For its contributions in increasing Latino student achievement in higher education*  
**Excelencia in Education**  
*is proud to recognize*  
**COLLEGE BOUND / COLLEGE SUCCESS**  
**FOUNDATION FOR A COLLEGE EDUCATION – EAST PALO ALTO, CA**  
*as an*  
**EXAMPLE OF EXCELENCIA FINALIST**  
**{ COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION LEVEL }**

September 30, 2024

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Learn more about Excelencia  
here

## Save the Date - March Success Celebration



We are looking forward to celebrating our 30th anniversary of transforming lives at our annual March to Success Celebration. We hope that you will join us on **Saturday, March 15th** for an event to remember!

## Fall Appeal

With election season upon us, we are shifting our fall appeal to mid-November to ensure our message is not overlooked. We are excited to connect with you soon and share how your support will make a lasting impact in helping our students access higher education. Stay tuned!

## Thank You

We are so grateful to each of our many partners and supporters. Your collaboration makes our work possible! We cannot wait to share more updates in January 2025!

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With gratitude,

*Elizabeth Wells*

Elizabeth Wells  
Executive Director

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FCE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that relies on the generosity of individual, foundation, corporate and other donors to fulfill our mission. Together with your support and partnership, we are making the dream of a four-year college degree a reality for our students and transforming the lives of our students, their families and our community.

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