
Spring 2024 Newsletter

Dear FCE Community,

We have so much to be proud of and thankful for! I am thrilled to share some of the highlights of our first quarter of 2024.

Professional Mentoring Program

We started off the year by hosting a reception for the volunteer mentors and college student mentees who are participating in this new program. The results have been fantastic! Most of our mentees have an internship or other opportunity lined up for this summer! They each have a better understanding of how to network and leverage their academic studies to achieve their career goals.



2024 Winter PMP Reception

SoCal College Tour

In February, we had another successful trip to Los Angeles to visit college campuses. FCE students toured Pitzer, UC Riverside, USC, UCLA, CSU Long Beach, CSU Dominguez Hills, and Loyola Marymount. Our very own FCE college students gave our high school students a tour and answered questions at almost every campus. By providing college tours, our students can visualize themselves on campuses, experience the college culture first-hand, and learn information to build an informed college list.



Alumni Gathering

Several alumni gathered to talk about their careers, exchange advice and reminisce about their experiences in FCE. We are so proud of all of our alumni, and grateful for this group who are working in the local community to support students and families. Everyone is looking forward to our next alumni event in June!



2024 Alumni Gathering

2024 March to Success Gala

We hosted over 200 guests at this year's Gala. We were thrilled to recognize the Haas Center for Public Service and Paitra Houts with our inaugural Community Partner Award. We heard from a student, several volunteers, a parent, and alumna about the impact FCE has made in their lives and why they continue to be part of this incredible community. We are very grateful to our FCE community who helped raise over \$325,000 to continue providing services to our families.



2024 March to Success Gala

Yield Giving Grant

In March 2023, Yield Giving launched an Open Call for community-led, community-focused organizations whose explicit purpose is to enable individuals and families to achieve substantive improvement in their well-being through foundational resources. The Open Call received 6,353 applications and initially planned for 250 awards of \$1 million each. In light of the incredible work of these organizations, the donor team decided to expand the awardee pool and the award amount.

We were proud to announce at the Gala that we are the recipient of a grant from Yield Giving, MacKenzie Scott's foundation. In the words of FCE Board Chair, Leila Jere, "We are especially honored to have been rated so highly by our peers as part of the evaluation

process. This grant validates what many of us here today know well. The FCE model, based on program research and best practices, works. Our personalized in-depth approach which engages parents, holds students to high expectations, and provides support through college graduation transforms lives. This is the right way to do college access and completion. The Yield Giving grant, combined with the momentum and commitment we are seeing from our entire donor community, means FCE is in a position to more fully achieve its mission.”



College Acceptances

As part of our commitment to provide college access, FCE paid the application fees for 70 college applications for our high school seniors (partially funded by a Menlo Park Rotary grant). This cohort of seniors has been accepted to over 50 unique colleges and universities. We are so excited to send these young scholars off on their next chapter!



2024 College Acceptances

Looking Ahead

We are looking forward to the upcoming high school and college graduations, and are planning our annual Achievement Reception where we will recognize all of our graduates for the year and award our various scholarships. We hope that you will join us at the event. Additional details will be sent in the weeks ahead.

We are also actively planning career panels and shadow days for this summer, and helping FCE students find internship opportunities. Here are two ways you can help!

- Please connect us with corporations or organizations that can host a group of students to share information about career options and networking opportunities that allow students to see themselves in similar corporations or other professional organizations.
- If you have information about internships or can refer us to someone who does, please contact us.

[Career Exploration and Development](#)



2023 Google Career Day

With gratitude,

Elizabeth Wells

Elizabeth Wells
Executive Director

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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