

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Dear FCE Community,

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season! I am excited about all the opportunities ahead of us in this new year. But first, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the amazing accomplishments from the last quarter of 2023.

In October, our **COLLEGE BOUND** high school seniors attended college rep visits and worked diligently to refine and polish their **college applications**. They were assisted by a team of excellent volunteers who reviewed and edited their essays. All 26 College Bound seniors submitted applications to more than 60 different colleges and universities. We are seeing many acceptances already and are looking forward to more to come in the months ahead!



Our **COLLEGE SUCCESS** students engaged in several **virtual workshops** including, LinkedIn for College Students, Study Skills, Resume Writing, Networking 101, and Banking & Budgeting 101. They also enjoyed a virtual holiday mixer to close out the end of the year!

We redesigned and expanded our **PARENT SUCCESS TEAM** for College Bound to give parents a space to bond, share, and learn from each other. We also invited our first-year College Success parents to gather for morning coffee and discussions about ways to support their students during the initial weeks and months of college, which can often be challenging for new college students. During this meeting, parents prepared care packages that were mailed to their college student. We were sure to include a note of encouragement!



We held our second annual **TOWN HALL** just after Thanksgiving. This gathering was a chance for us to include **STUDENTS AND PARENTS** in evaluating our staff, communications, and programs. We are grateful for our partnership with our families to continue improving our curriculum and services to meet the needs of our students and families. The responses to our anonymous survey were overwhelmingly positive!



Some **STUDENTS AND FAMILIES** took part in **CULTURAL CAPITAL** events including theatre at Stanford Live (Jungle Book) and Presidio Theatre (Panto) in San Francisco. We want to ensure that our students have exposure to a broad array of experiences and opportunities. Education is not just what is learned in the classroom! We are looking forward to providing more of these opportunities for our students this year.

Our annual **HOLIDAY FAIRE** brought together **students, parents, Board members, Advisory Board members, volunteers, and community partners**, and was a huge success. We listened to students share their successes, enjoyed holiday treats and a game of musical chairs, and enjoyed a wonderful celebration of our collaborative efforts.



Looking ahead at the next quarter, there is much to be excited about. We will have another SoCal college tour in February; tax, scholarship, and financial aid workshops for College Bound and College Success students; the launch of our FCE scholarship application; and, of course, making preparations for our March to Success Gala on Saturday, March 23rd. I hope to see you all there! It truly is a wonderful celebration of our community where students, parents and alumni share personal stories about the impact FCE has had on their lives.

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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