

# FORMER FOSTER YOUTH

California State University  
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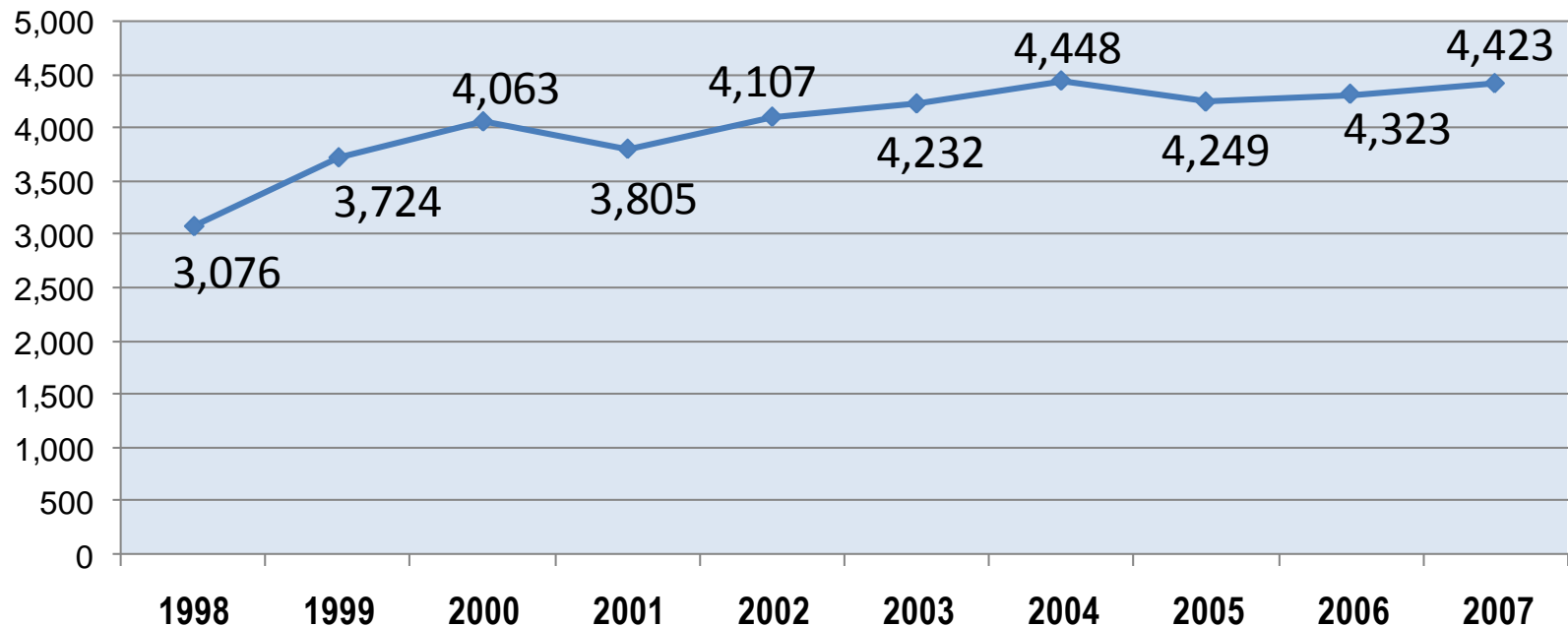
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# The Challenge

# Snapshot of Unassisted Foster Youth

- 15% of youth in foster care are likely to be enrolled in college prep courses during high school compared to 32% of all students.
- 20% of former foster youth go on to college compared to about 60% of all high school seniors.
- 1-5% will eventually graduate from college as compared to about 27% of the general population.
- **70% of youth in foster care report that they desire to go to college.**

## Growth in Number of Youth Who “Age Out” of Foster Care Annually in California 1998 - 2007



# National 6-Year College Completion Rates

<u>Overall – all students</u>	<u>52%</u>
Low socio-economic status	44%
Latino students	40%
First generation college students	43%
African American students	38%
GED completers	27%
<i>'Independent'</i> students	22%
<b>From foster care</b>	<b>20%</b> <sub>5</sub>

# Postsecondary Education in California

- Of 11,408 youth who left foster care between 1992 and 1997 in California
  - 1.5% received AA degrees
  - 1% received certificates
  - 1.5% transferred to 4-year institutions
- Nationally, 37% of the general population graduate from community colleges and 19% transfer to 4-year institutions

# **What barriers impede their success?**

# Barriers

- Multiple transitions during K-12
- Low expectations by caretakers
- High rates of being classified as “special education”
- Lack of emotional support
- Lack of educational resources
- Lack of preparation for academic challenges in college
- High rates of PTSD and mental health issues
- Lack of English and math skills
- Lack of independent living skills
- High rates of homelessness after emancipation

# **What factors contribute to students' progress and success?**

# Campus Support Services

- Admissions assistance
- Financial assistance
- On-campus housing assistance
- Orientation to college life (e.g. EOP Summer Bridge)
- Academic advising and monitoring
- Counseling and support
- Peer mentoring
- Life skills workshops
- Employment opportunities
- Social and quarterly celebrations
- Post-graduation career planning and assistance
- Student Drop-In Center

# Our Collective Efforts



# A Decade of Progress

**1998 – One program at Cal State Fullerton**

**2006 – Six programs**

**2009 –**

- Twelve programs established**
- Five programs in development stage**

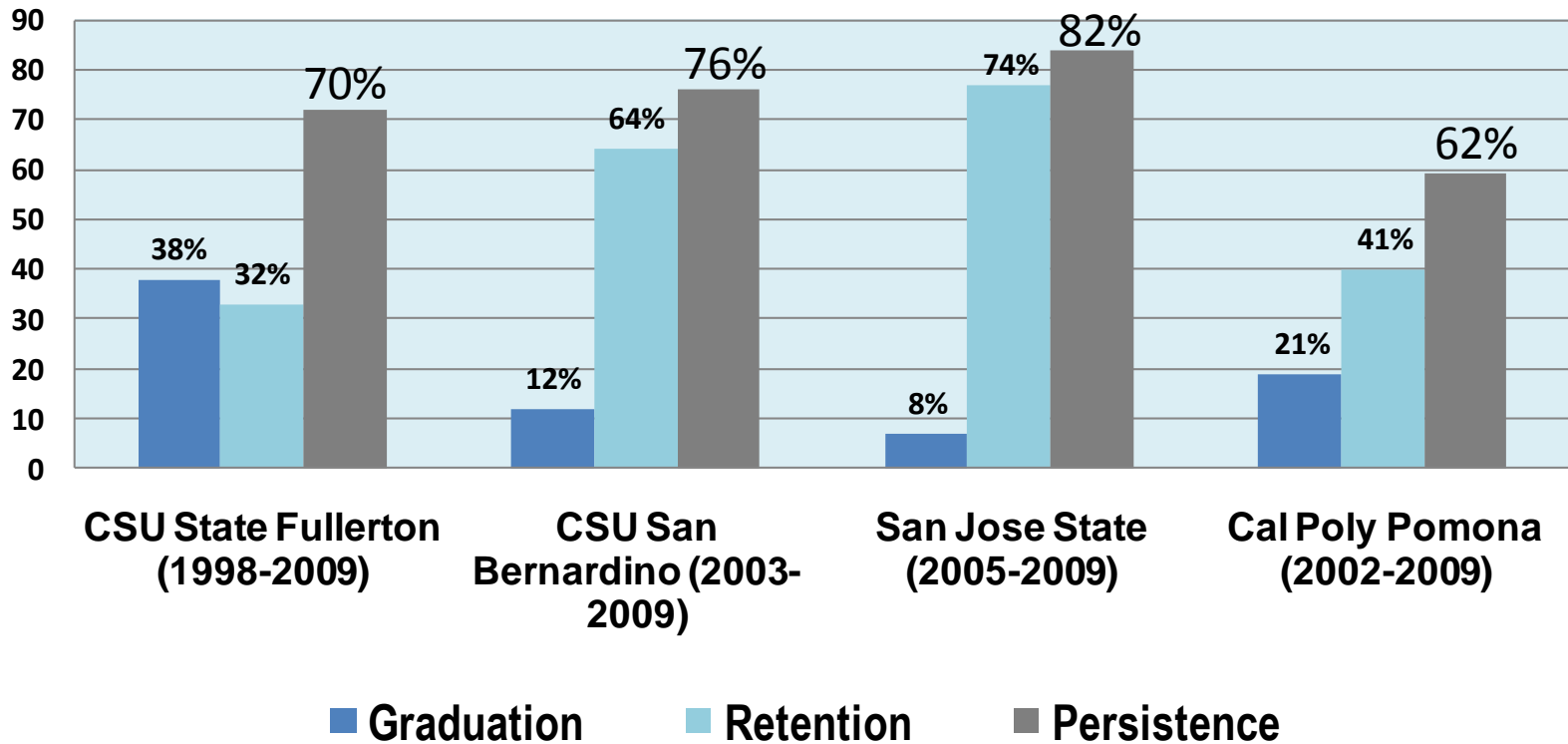
# Established Programs

- Cal Poly Pomona, Renaissance Scholars
- CSU East Bay, Renaissance Scholars
- CSU Fresno, Renaissance Scholars
- CSU Fullerton, Guardian Scholars
- CSU Sacramento, Guardian Scholars
- CSU San Bernardino, EOP Foster Youth Program

# Established Programs

- CSU San Marcos, ACE Scholars
- CSU Stanislaus, Promise Scholars
- San Diego State University, Guardian Scholars
- San Francisco State University, Guardian Scholars
- San Jose State University, Connect, Motivate, Educate (CME) Society
- CSU Los Angeles, Court Scholars

## CSU Campus Support Programs Retention and Graduation Analysis



# The Stuart Foundation Foster Youth Grant

Recognizing the success of CSU campus programs to support former foster youth, the California State University was awarded \$200,000, the first installment of a three year \$600,000 grant request, from the Stuart Foundation to create the CSU Foster Youth in Higher Education project to help students attending colleges and universities in California and the state of Washington.

# Questions & Answers



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