



# **PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS- SUPPORTING FOSTER YOUTH**



# **PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS PROGRAM-OUR MISSION**

## **The PCC Fostering Success Mission...**

**to improve educational outcomes for foster youth attending PCC, by promoting awareness, advocacy, and support, while also working to increase the number of foster youth that apply to PCC for both certificate and degree programs.**



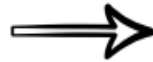
# WHY OUR MISSION MATTERS- FOSTER YOUTH AND EDUCATION

Only 30-50% will  
graduate high  
school w/ cohort

Over **80%** *aspire to go to college.*



**50%**



**20%**



**2%**

**Without training/education and professional success, the outcomes for foster youth are very negative:**

- ~25% will experience homelessness;
- ~50% will be unemployed;
- ~33% receive public assistance;

**Increased rates of:**

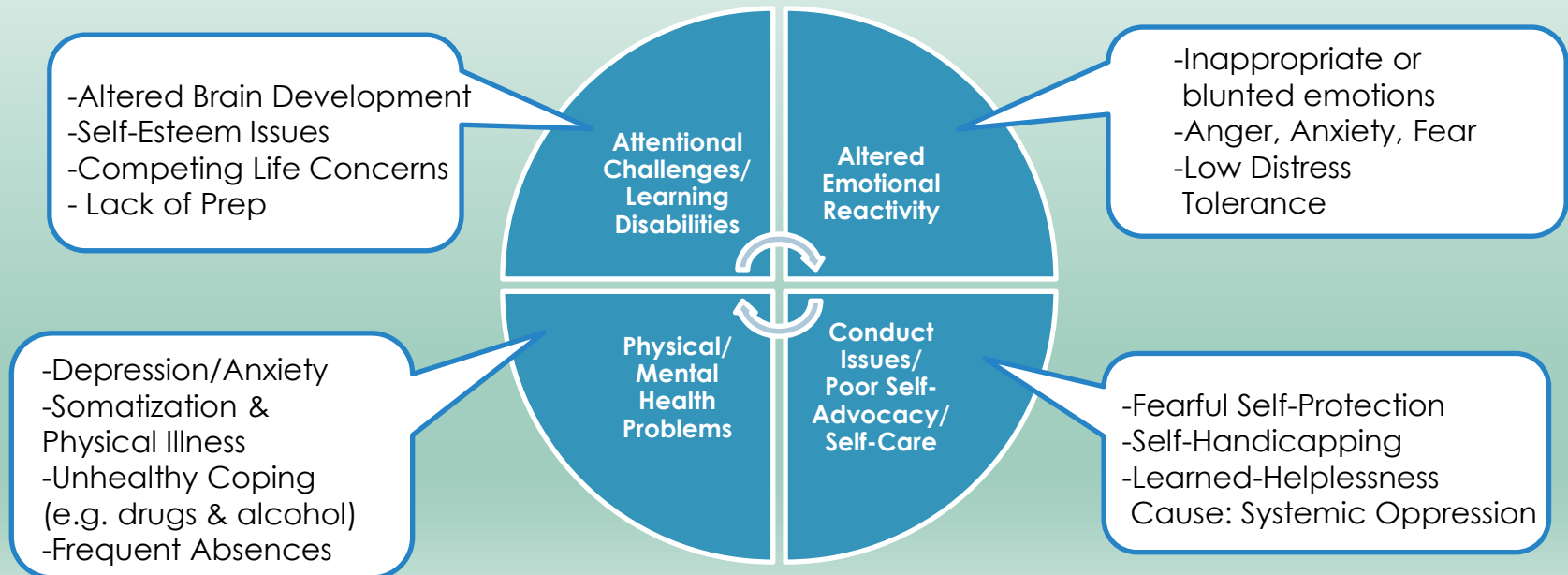
- addiction;
- mental health issues;
- incarceration;
- teen parenthood.

**Outcomes can = repeat cycle of trauma**



# WHY PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS IS NEEDED FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**Foster youth share in many issues other students face, e.g. 1st-generation students, learning disabilities, homelessness, poverty, etc. However, special programs for other student populations, may not fully meet the unique needs of this vulnerable group.**





# IMPROVING OUTCOMES- THE POWER OF EDUCATION

**Let me tell you a story about being in foster care and its impact...**





# **PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS PROGRAM—TO DATE**

- **Foster Youth Day at Cascade**
- **Checkbox on PCC application about foster care status, 290 have checked the box for Fall 2016.**
- **Identified Champions at each campus (50 so far).  
Champions = a support network of faculty and staff (working within the scope of their position) that students with lived-experience in foster care can rely on throughout all four campuses.**
- **Created a resource page for foster youth and PCC faculty/staff, to best serve the needs of these students.**



# **PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS— MOVING FORWARD**

- **Offer training to PCC faculty/staff to better serve the needs of foster youth. (Logo provided to ID “foster friendly” places.)**
- **Meeting with foster youth to assess individual needs.**
- **Establish a “club” for students in the program so they can support each other.**
- **Benchmarking services to best practices of programs in other states.**
- **Providing leadership to other community colleges and universities to develop foster youth support programs using the PCC model.**
- **Creating pathways to WOU and PSU.**



# **PCC FOSTERING SUCCESS- SUSTAINABILITY**

- **Established a Fostering Success Program fund in the PCC Foundation to cover program costs, emergency funds, and non-credit certificate scholarships for our foster youth students.**
- **The PCC Foundation has submitted a grant application for continued funding and is actively seeking donor support.**
- **With Rob Wagner's support, presented Fostering Success to the Oregon House Education Committee.**
- **Senator Dembrow is proposing 3 bills for the next legislative session to support foster youth in higher education.**





# SUMMARY

- **Foster youth do not have to become negative statistics—We can change outcomes of current or former foster youth for the better with specifically targeted programs.**
- **Through ongoing collaboration with other student support programs on each campus, the PCC Fostering Success program aims to become a leader in improving the educational/professional outcomes of foster youth in Oregon.**



# QUESTIONS?

## Thank You!

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# OTHER RESOURCES

- **Fostering Success Resource Page-** our website offers an assortment of helpful tools for students and faculty/staff.  
[www.pcc.edu/resources/foster-youth/](http://www.pcc.edu/resources/foster-youth/)
- **Foster Club-** a national resource for foster youth based here in Oregon. <https://www.fosterclub.com/>
- **Casey Family Programs-** another national resource for foster youth and foster parents.  
<http://www.casey.org/communities/or/?location=or>
- **Fostering Success Michigan-** a leader in supporting foster youth attending college.  
<http://fosteringssuccessmichigan.com/>