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## **Understanding the POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES of care that contribute to SUCCESSFUL PATHS to HIGHER EDUCATION**

The Foster Youth Research team from the University of California, Berkeley would like to invite you to take part in a research project. Before you decide whether you would like to take part it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

### **What is the purpose of the study?**

The purpose of the study is to better understand the positive attributes of foster care, kinship care, or group care that contribute to foster youth's success in higher education. We know that *you* worked hard to get to where you are, but how did your foster caregiver contribute to your success? What did your caregiver do, and what was the context for their support of your educational aspirations?

### **Am I eligible to participate?**

Our study focuses on former foster youth who were:

- (a) In foster care, kinship care, or group care on or after their 13<sup>th</sup> birthday;
- (b) In care for six months or longer;

### **Is my participation voluntary?**

Absolutely. Participation in this project is voluntary. If you decide to withdraw at any time, you may do so. Please note that we believe information from this study will help to develop *better foster parents and more qualified social workers*, so we hope you will participate!

### **Are my responses confidential?**

Yes. We will not share your information with others. When we write about our study we will not include your name or any identifying information about you.

### **What does participation entail?**

The study includes two parts:

First, we ask you to complete a brief on-line survey. We expect this will take no more than 5 minutes. You can go to the survey [here](#).

Second, we will invite you to participate in a "Zoom focus group." Due to the pandemic, our contact with you must be on-line. We will arrange a small group on-line meeting (5-7 students) among your peers at your university. Scheduling the meeting will happen at your convenience. In that group

meeting we will ask a series of questions about the *positive attributes* of your care experience so that we can find commonalities and differences among students.

**Are there any personal benefits to participating?**

Yes. We will send you a **\$20.00 gift card** following your participation in our focus group in thanks for your participation. We also believe your participation will provide *benefit to others* as your participation will help us better understand how we can support other foster youth on their journey to higher education.

**Are there any personal disadvantages to participating?**

Former foster youth have had varied experiences of care. Some experiences were positive and others negative. We will not ask any questions about the potential negative aspects of care. This study only focuses on the *positive aspects* of care. As such, we do not anticipate that participation in this study will pose any risks.

**Further questions?**

If you have further questions about this research project, please feel free to reach out to one of us, or to Professor Berrick (dberrick@berkeley.edu). This project has been reviewed by the University of California Berkeley Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects (approval #2020-05-13266).

**By clicking [HERE](#) you are consenting to participate in this research survey.**

Thank you for considering this request. We share a common mission to support former foster youth on our journey through higher education.

Sincerely,

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