

Bridging the Gaps: *Models for Using Resources Effectively and Accessing Higher Education*

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SF STATE

Organizational Mission and History

- SF State's GSP was founded in 2005 to address the needs of former foster care youth on campus who were seeking undergraduate degrees.
- Mission: to create a system of support that will meet the academic, social, emotional, and financial needs of undergraduate students who are transitioning out of the foster care system.
- Collaboration between Student Services - EOP and School of Social Work
- GSP serves 45-50 students each year, the majority of whom are low income, needing remediation upon entering SF State, and who would be marginally housed or homeless during the school breaks.



Target Population

- The # of young people aging out of foster care each year in California is approximately 4,500
- 150 apply to SF State each year
- 25 are accepted to SF State and EOP
- 15 (approx.) are interviewed each Fall
- All former foster youth are eligible for EOP & Student Support Services (U.S Dept of Ed/Trio)
- GSP accepts First-time Frosh, Transfer and SF State Continuing Students



Theory of Change

- We thoroughly assess students' needs upon entering the program
- We provide comprehensive, tailored services to students individually
- Students are then able to minimize barriers to a successful and timely graduation
- Students are able to achieve employment/ internship experiences, personal growth, long-term permanent, emotional connections with others, and an undergraduate degree



GSP Services

- Intensive case management (MSW level and interns)
- Year-round housing and meal plans
 - Winter/summer breaks (no families to return to)
- Student empowerment
 - Advocacy/leadership development, social support



GSP Case Management – Link with School of Social Work

- Hired MSW Case Manager
 - Funded through foundation monies
- Developed MSW Internship Opportunity
 - Field Instructor
 - Stipend offered
- Clinical Assessment Form
 - Demographics, bio-psycho-social history
 - Link with Counseling and Psych Services



SF State Campus Support Services

- Educational Opportunity Program
- Financial Aid/ Scholarships
- Priority Registration (Office of Registrar)
- Counseling/Psychological Services
- Disability Resource Center
- Career and Health Centers
- AS Early Childhood Education Center



GSP Housing – Residence Hall Community

- Guaranteed spaces per year in the Residence Halls, and priority housing
- Year-round housing with a winter license addendum
- All Guardian Scholars are assigned to the same floor in a GSP-themed community
- Challenges and changes
- Students choose to live together in future years (creating permanent emotional connections to friends)



GSP Fundraising for program

- External fundraising for grants and donations (Univ Develop & Communications)
 - Full-time MSW Case Manager
 - Student housing, meal plans
 - Student events (holiday meals, leadership events)
 - MSW intern stipends
 - Fundraising/development (event, marketing)



Outside Funding Sources vs. Traditional Financial Aid for Students

- Individual student packaging of financial needs
- Chafee grant funding (federal)
- Specific university scholarships
- County Independent Living Skills Programs
- State THP-Plus monies
- Office of University Development for grant funding for student housing
- Other funds (i.e. Orphan Found. of America)

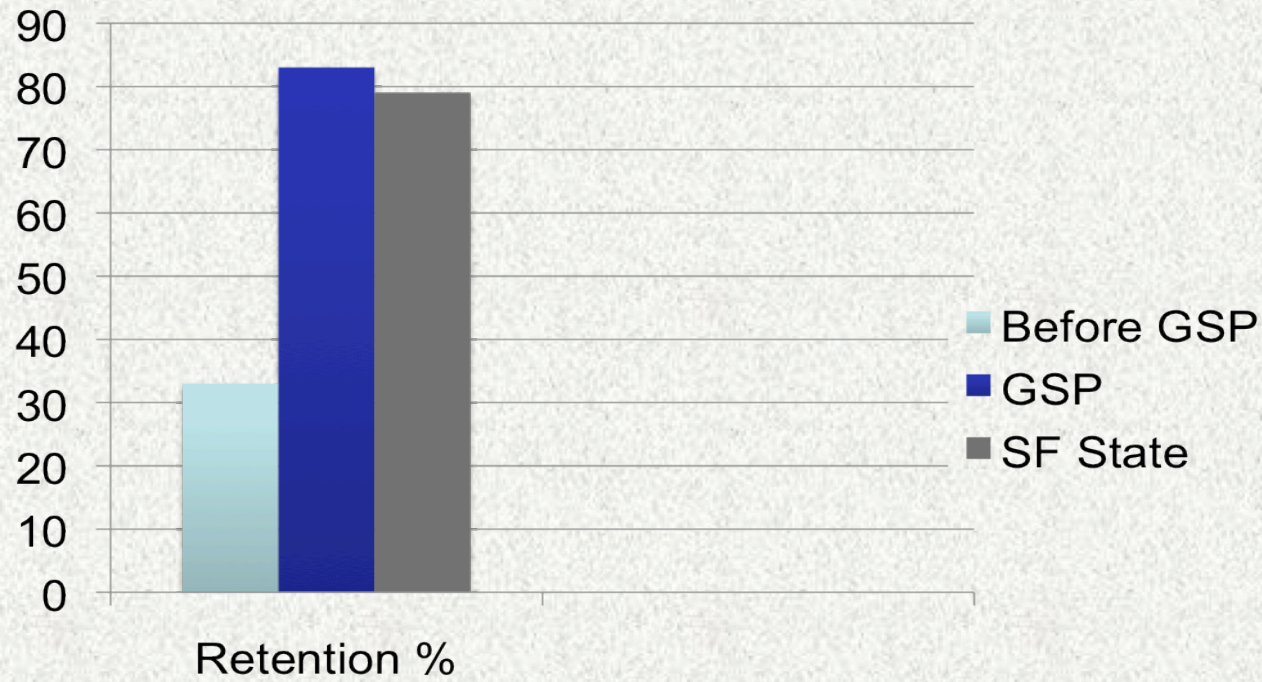


GSP Outcomes

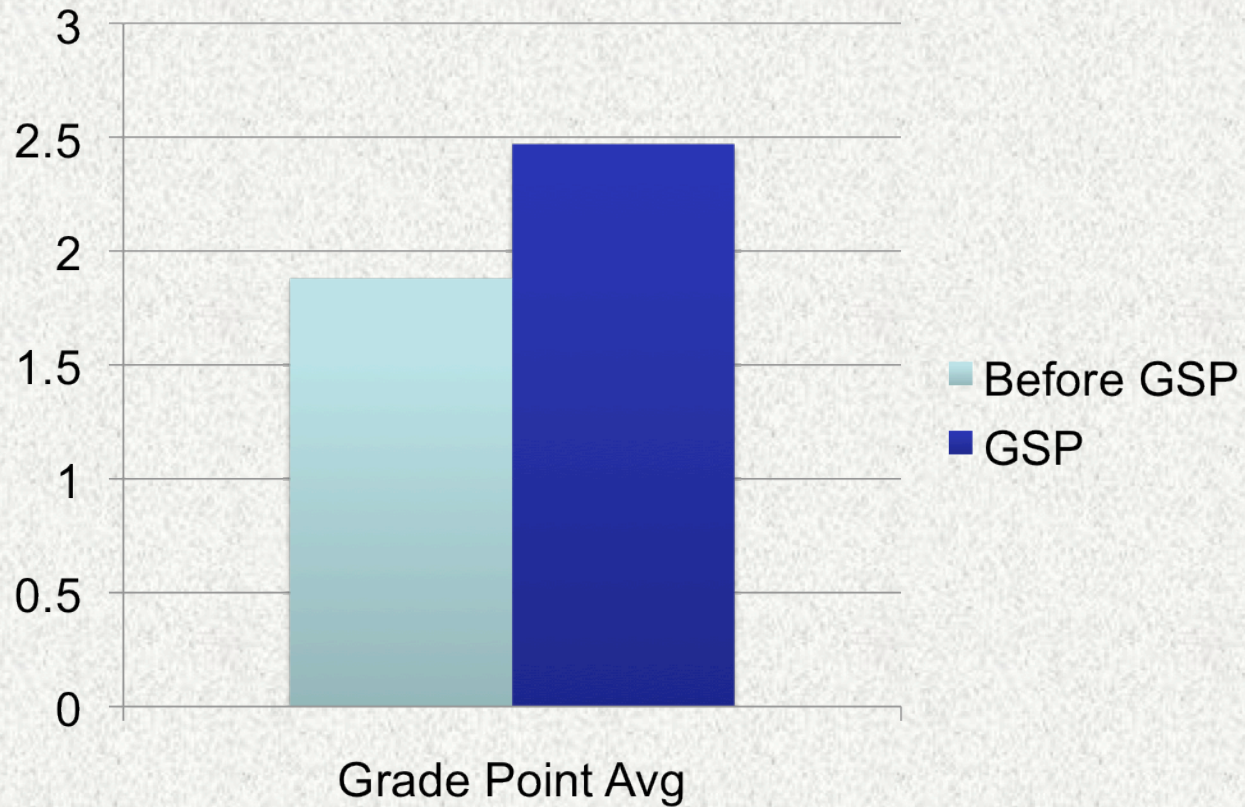
- Have served 54 students since Fall 2005
- Outcomes:
 - Retention rate
 - 83% for all GSP students after 5 years
 - Mean GPA of 2.47 (Spring '10 - 5 on Deans List)
 - Graduation rate
 - 75% from first cohort (after 5 years)
 - One graduate this year was Cum Laude
 - Will be 80% in May 2011 (after 6 years)



GSP Outcomes



GSP Outcomes



GSP Recognition and Awards

- Received proclamations from CA State Legislature for supporting foster care youth
- May 24, 2010 article in SF Chronicle
- Asked by State Senator Mark Leno to present at press conference
- Represented all CSUs at national conference foster
- Received an award from United Way of the Bay Area - 2009
- Received “Changing a Lifetime” Award at the State Capitol



Discussion

- Questions?
- Feedback?

Thank You!

