

# ***Looking at Best Practices:***

***The Role of a Campus Liaison***

***Conductor, Connector, Educator Facilitator and Advocate***

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# *What We Know*

- The first six weeks are the most influential for a college student.
- During this transition students have a person back home who they can contact for assistance/support.
- For former foster youth this is **not** an option.

# *What We Know*

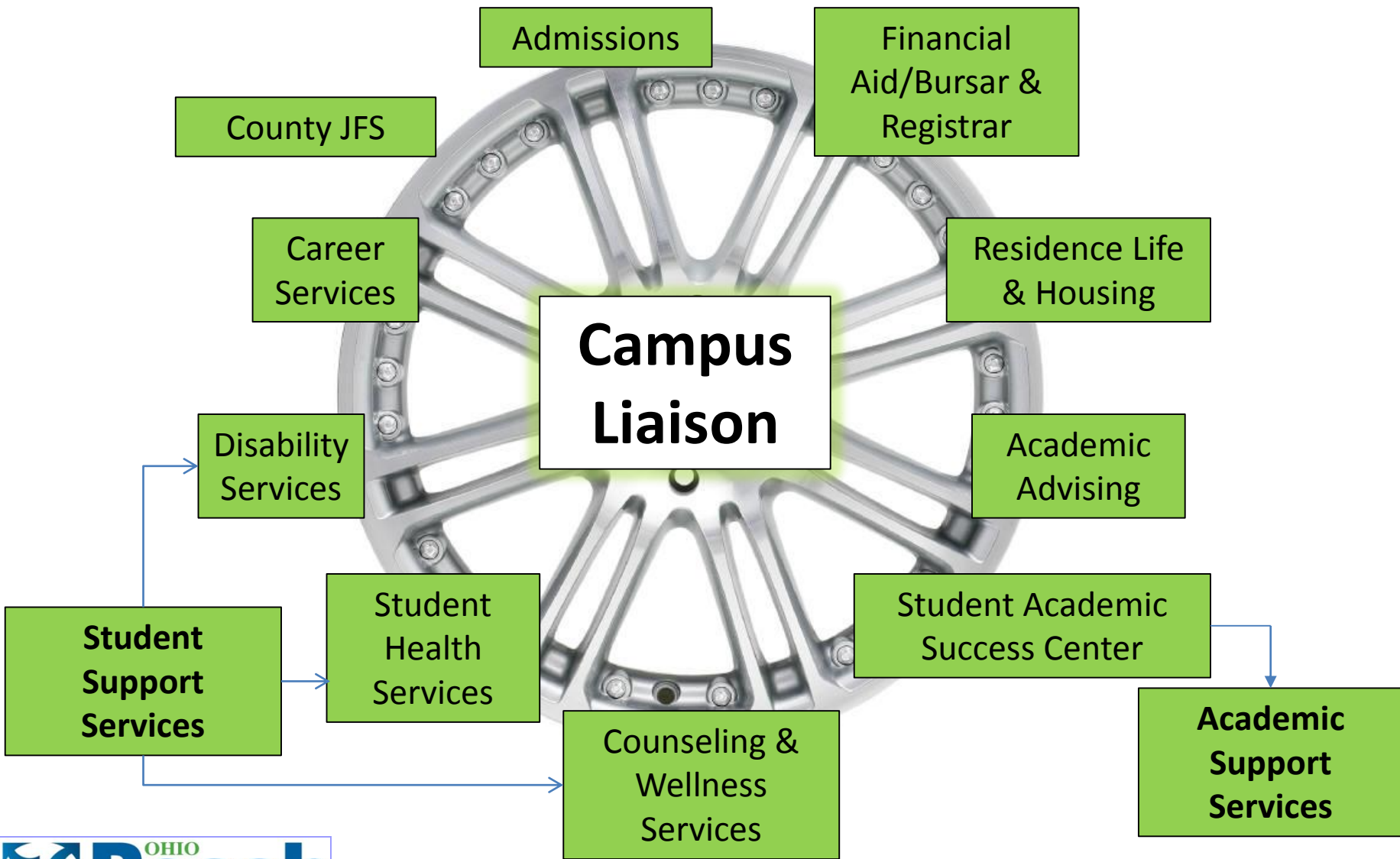
- When foster youth participate in campus support programs and receive sufficient financial aid, they are **3 times more likely to stay in college and earn their degrees.**
- Campus programs that support foster youth have an average persistence rate of 75%, which is 16% higher than the national general student population.

# Who Are Campus Liaisons?

- They are the “Hub” on the Wheel!
- Generally, a FTE staff “point-person!”
- Students need “trusted staff persons” who have primary responsibility to identify them and consistently provide guidance in navigating the landscape of higher education.

**Appendix B:** Supporting Success: Improving Higher Education Outcomes for Youth from Foster Care.

# Campus Connections



# What Do Campus Liaisons Do?

- Collaborate with Child Welfare partners to recruit foster youth to apply to your university/college & identify college students with foster care backgrounds.
- Provide support, guidance and assistance to students when needed.
- Communicate with care givers, case managers, high school guidance counselors regarding pre-college, transitioning, onboarding and retention/persistence issues.
- Educate campus colleagues about issues challenging foster youth on campus
- To serve as Conductor, Educator, Facilitator and Advocate!

**Research Brief:** Building a Campus Support Network for Students Emerging from Foster Care, Education Advisory Board, Washington, DC, June 10, 2009

# What We Are Requesting from Campus Liaison?

- Be **familiar with the needs** of foster youth who transition to higher education.
- Serve as a **advocate** for support throughout your university/college community.
- Have a vision for ***Foster Scholars*** on your campus
- **Stay connected** with Ohio Reach

# Wright State University

- Independent Living Scholar Network
  - The Wright State University Independent Scholars Network exists to provide resources and services which enhance the academic and social-cultural experiences of a student who emancipates from foster care into higher education.



# Ohio University

- Changed question on the application.
  - Over 300 OU applicants checked the “foster youth” question in the application form. Of the 300+ at least 160 have been admitted and likely to be offered some form of scholarship in addition to ETV, etc.

# Columbus State Community College

-Supporting foster youth to **P**repare, **A**chieve, **R**ealize and **K**eeP their educational goals within reach (S.P.A.R.K).

# Other Colleges

- Cuyahoga Community College (all campuses)
  - Campus Liaison Campus Tree
  - Website
- Central State University
  - Open housing for former foster youth during the break
- The Higher Education Mentoring Initiative (HEMI)
  - provides Hamilton County foster youth a long-term academic mentoring relationship that begins in high school and is focused on awareness of, preparation for, and completion of post-secondary education and training.
- HEMI is a partnership between Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services, the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development.

# Essential Resources

- It's My Life: Postsecondary Education & Training  
A resource for child welfare professionals.  
(Casey Family Programs)
- Support SUCCESS: Improving higher education outcomes for students from foster care – A framework for program enhancement 2010.  
(Casey Family Programs)
- Research Brief: Building a Campus Support Network for Students Emerging from Foster Care, Education Advisory Board, June 10, 2009.  
(Casey Family Programs)
- Providing Effective Financial Aid Assistance to Students from Foster Care & Unaccompanied Homeless Youth: A Key to Higher Education Access & Success. (Version 2.0).  
(Casey Family Programs)

[http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/directory/subject/Education\\_post.html](http://www.casey.org/resources/publications/directory/subject/Education_post.html)

# Collaboration Opportunities!

- Collaborate with Child Welfare professionals to identify prospective and current students
- Collaborate with Child Welfare and Community Colleges to Educate Regarding Community Resources
- Create an Advisory Board or Committee of Advocates on your campus.
- Provide a workshop series that will further support Foster Scholars while in school (counseling services & financial aid).

# Core Elements

## “Initiate, Collaborate, Communicate and Network”

- 1. Designate Responsibility
- 2. Identify Youth
- 3. Develop Departmental Liaisons
- 4. Make contact with community services/resources
- 5. Learn about the needs directly from students
- 6. Initiate meetings
- 7. Address the concerns of students with special needs.
- Develop ongoing efforts at your institution

# Questions?

