

Project YESS

The Foundation For California Community Colleges (FCCC) Project YESS (Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success) brings together the Youth Development Services Program's vision with the vision emerging from the National Governors Association's Policy Academy on Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care (2006).

FCCC met with and received input from 15 participating Los Angeles campus Independent Living Programs' (ILP) and Early Start to Emancipation Program's (ESTEP) staffs, convened focus groups with current and former foster youth, and met with local partners, (e.g., The Alliance for Children 's Rights, Public Council, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and California Youth Connection (CYC) representatives). These discussions and the information that resulted from them led to the development of Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS).

Project YESS communicates a positive message that says YESS, together we can empower youth to better understand their choices and options , build powerful and personal connections, and impart the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to transition out of the foster care system using educational and training programs that incorporates **Rigor, Relevancy** and **Relationships (3R's)**.

Project YESS provides **Rigor** – Challenging, interactive, confidence-building personal – growth-oriented training and learning experiences that relate to real needs and tangible, meaningful outcomes.

Project YESS provides **Relevancy**- A multi-level (14-15, 16-17, 18-21 year old) age and developmentally appropriate training and learning experiences that relate to real and tangible, meaningful outcomes.

Project YESS provides **Relationships** –Caring college staff, Project YESS staff, and adults in the community who will create and maintain meaningful, long –term, and /or life-long relationships with youth to support them as they move toward emancipation and permanency, and beyond.