

# GEORGIA EFFORTS TO SUPPORT HOMELESS AND FOSTER YOUTH IN THEIR PURSUIT OF A POST- SECONDARY EDUCATION



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**USG Enrollment Management Symposium**  
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# Agenda

- Welcome
- What is Embark?
- Programmatic Overview
  - CARE Program at Kennesaw State
  - STAR Program at Savannah State
  - Embark UGA
- National Overview
- What are the Numbers?
- Questions?

# What is Embark?

- **Local: Campus Based Program at UGA - Embark UGA**  
*Embark UGA will increase the opportunities for UGA students who have experienced foster care or homelessness by providing supports that promote success and well-being beyond an education.*
- **Statewide: Embark Georgia Network**  
*The Embark Georgia statewide network serves post-secondary professionals and institutions to ensure connectivity, share best practices, and provide information exchange among youth, community based stakeholders, and K-12 educators in support of youth who have experienced foster care and homelessness.*
- **National: Initiative by Casey Family Programs and Stuart Foundation**





## **Homeless After Class**

A video montage about homeless students at Kennesaw State University

Kennesaw State University  
Counseling and Psychological Services'

# C.A.R.E. Program

Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment Program



# KSU's History with Homelessness

- 1<sup>st</sup> KSU homeless student was identified in the 1980's
- 2006 KSU Student Health Services, in conjunction with Staff Senate, began Feed the Future
- October 13, 2008, KSU's Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW) began
- May 2013 KSU's Campus Awareness, Resource & Empowerment (CARE) Center opened



# CARE Program Overview



[sss.kennesaw.edu/care](http://sss.kennesaw.edu/care)

# Case Management



For several years Case Managers have provided services to KSU students. The case manager is the person who aides in *putting all the pieces together*.

## Case Management Team:

- Assess students' capacity to cope with their current situation/crisis
- Prioritize needs and develop a care/action plan
- Coordinate care with both formal and informal supports
- Refer students to on and off campus resources



# The Owl's Closet



- A donation-based collection and referral service for food, clothing, toiletries and other necessities
- Toiletries, towels and washcloths, blankets, pillows, coats and hats are always available for urgent needs
- CARE operates the **Feed the Future Pantry** providing food as well as information on community pantries
- Clothing items collected by CARE are donated to local consignment shops and in turn the shops provide store credit for CARE students to obtain clothing and/or footwear

# Funding Resources



Assists students with addressing their financial needs by:

- Assist in finding job opportunities both on and off campus
- Work with Financial Aid to determine if student is connected to all available resources
- Assisting students in applying for university and community-based grants and/or scholarships
- Locating benevolent organizations to offer services students may not be able to afford. (i.e. childcare, car maintenance, etc.)

# Emergency Shelter



When students are in situations where they are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, the CARE Center will

- Refer to local benevolent associations for Emergency Shelter (e.g. Must Ministries, area churches, YWCA, etc.) and
- Provide assistance with locating affordable living arrangements (i.e. extended stay hotels, area apartments, etc.).

# Homelessness Awareness Week

Homelessness Awareness Week (HAW) provides an opportunity to learn more about this “invisible” population.



Activities, including an on-campus **Sleep-Out**, which can increase our knowledge and understanding of living without reliable shelter and food, and sometimes living without hope.

A vertical strip of five images on the left side of the slide. From top to bottom: 1. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of red, orange, and yellow. 2. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of green, pink, and purple. 3. A close-up of a person's hands holding a puzzle piece. 4. A close-up of colorful puzzle pieces in shades of yellow, blue, and red. 5. A close-up of a person's hands holding a puzzle piece.

# CARE Center Scholarships:

DR. BRUCE THOMASON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS

20/4/1 ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

These scholarships are available to any KSU student in need and meets scholarship application requirements



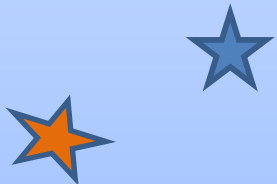
# S.T.A.R.

## Students That Are Rising



**STAR** is a campus support program for students who have transitioned out of foster care services to independent living. Many of these students have no family connections which can result in a challenging transition and adjustment to college life.

State support is very limited and our students sometimes go without essential supplies during the course of the month, but are ashamed or afraid to ask for help.



Savannah State University



# Advisory Committee



**Makes recommendations to the Director of Student Development and SSU by extension, on ways to enhance the university's ability to respond to the needs of students who are homeless, who have aged out of foster care and are having transitional problems, and those who are at risk of being homeless.**



**Savannah State University**

# SERVICES

## CASE MANAGEMENT –

- \*mentoring
- \*disability services
- \* emergency campus housing
- \*university services
- \* counseling services
- \* shelter referrals
- \*community organizations – Nsoro Foundation/ Orange Duffle Bag – *Holidays of Hope*



Savannah State University





# Services continued...



## Laptop Scholarship –

Merit Based (Promotes competition and research)



Savannah State University



# Services continued...



## Pantry –

Donations by the entire campus community



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# Services Continued...



## Freshman 'Tuck-in'-

Adopt a student



Cabinet for the Organizer Unit



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# Services Continued...



Home away from Home –

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Will you have an extra seat at your  
Thanksgiving table?



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# Services Continued....



Celebration Club –



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# Challenges



Academic difficulties

Making post college plans

Peer and dating issues

Family relationships

Inadequate sources of strength

Unhealthy help seeking behaviors

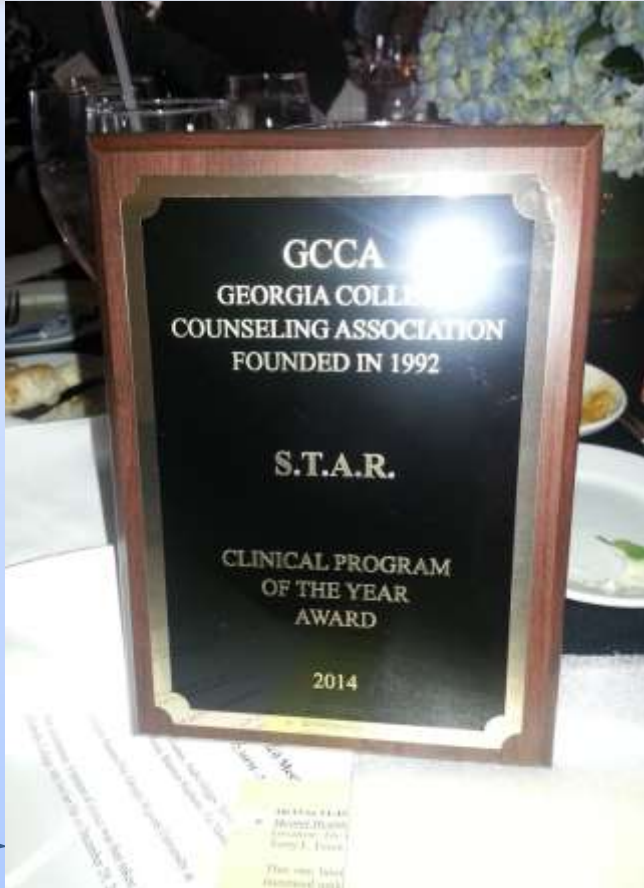
Finances

Adjustment to independent living

Lack of trust for counseling



# Awards



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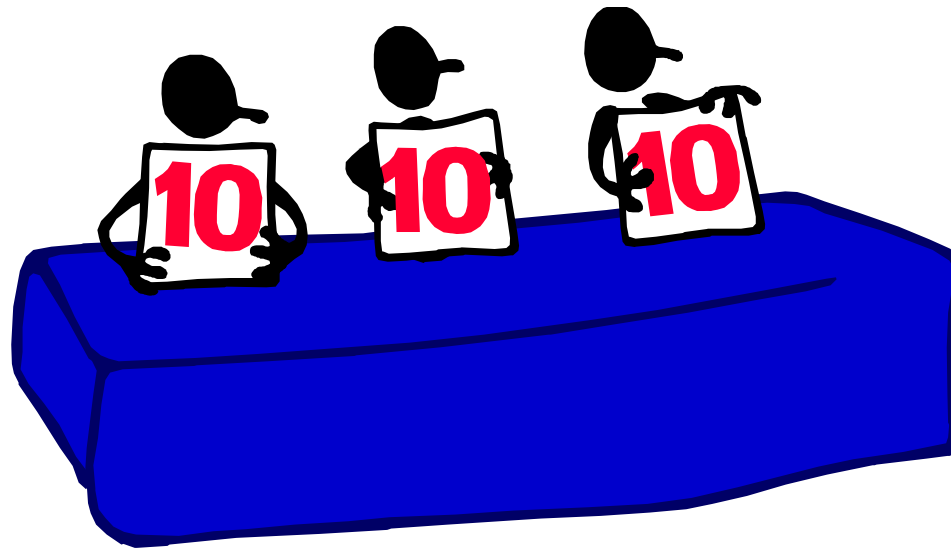
# Embark UGA

- Undergraduate Admissions
- Office of Student Financial Aid
- School of Social Work
- Health Center/Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
- Student Affairs (DPOC Alan Campbell)
- Office of Institutional Diversity
- Family and Consumer Sciences
- University Housing
- Advising/Franklin College
- Office of Vice President for Research
- Vice President for Public Service and Outreach
- Office Vice President for Instruction
- Others...





# So what is working nationally??



# Casey Family Programs - Supporting Success NAEHCY - College Access and Success

- Program Development Highlights:
  - Designated Leader (DL)/Special Points of Contact (SPOC)
  - Internal and External Champions
  - Collaborations with Community Agencies
  - Data Driven Decision Making
  - Staff Peer Support and Professional Development
  - Sustainability Planning
- Direct Support Highlights
  - Housing
  - Financial Aid
  - Academic Advising, Career Counseling and Supplemental Support



# National Movement to Increase Supports: Promising Practices in Other States

## Campus Based Programs

- Based on Casey Family Programs: Supporting Success
  - Financial Support
  - Academic Support
  - Social/Emotional Support
  - Designated Points of Contact on Campuses

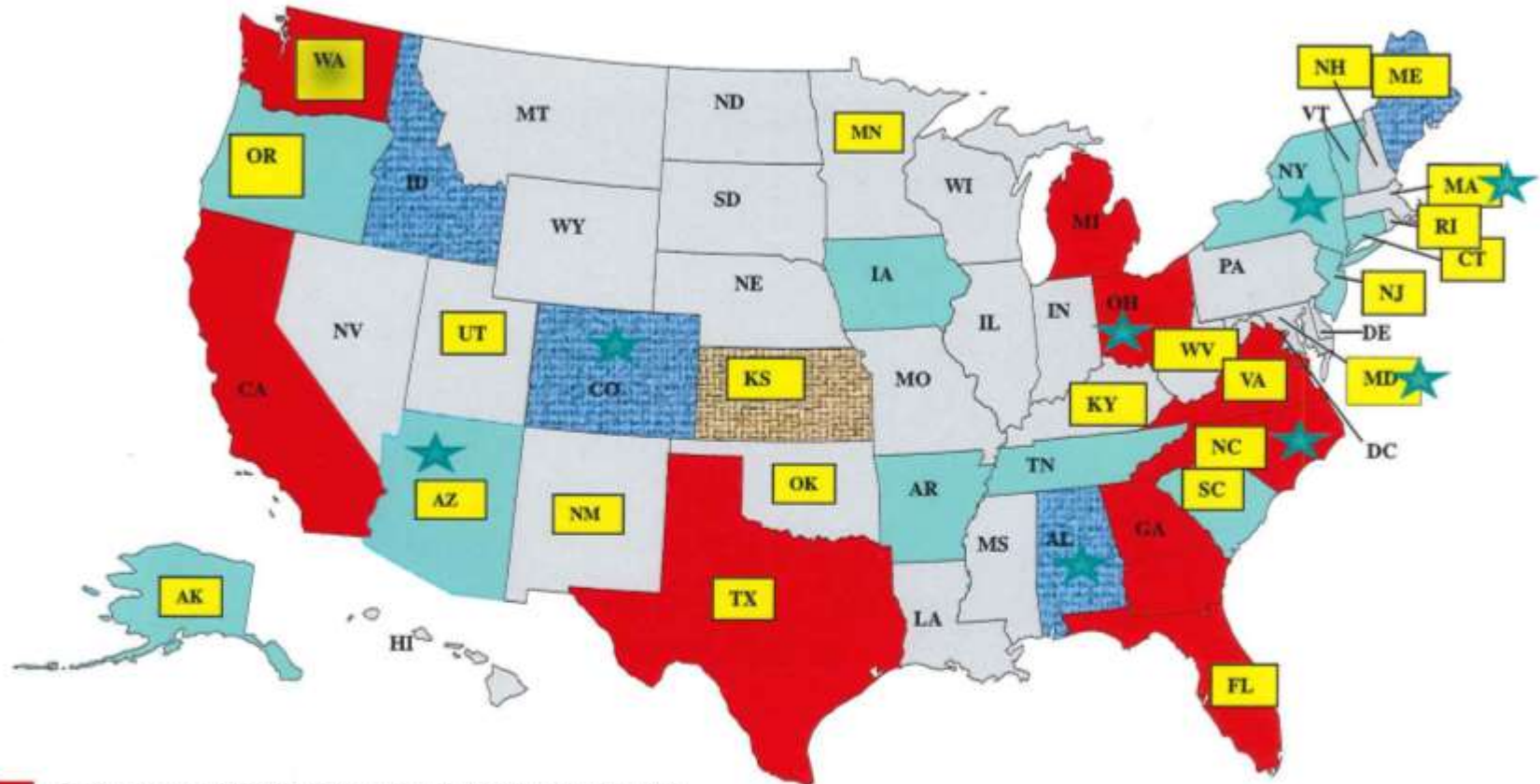
## Statewide Networks of Support

- Promote connectivity and sharing of ideas among Technical and University campuses
  - Regional meetings and Statewide conferences
  - Web based communication and social networking
  - Technical assistance for program development and enhancement



# Foster Care and Postsecondary Education Policy, Practice and Collaboration Scan

5/9/14



State Higher Education/Child Welfare Collaborations (8)

Potential for systems collaboration (5)

Some college based support program(s) (11)

Statewide Gear Up Program (KS)

State Tuition Waiver Legislation (23)

Passport to College Promise (WA)

Foster Care to Success ETV Administered States AL, AZ, CO, MA, MD, NC, NY, OH (8)

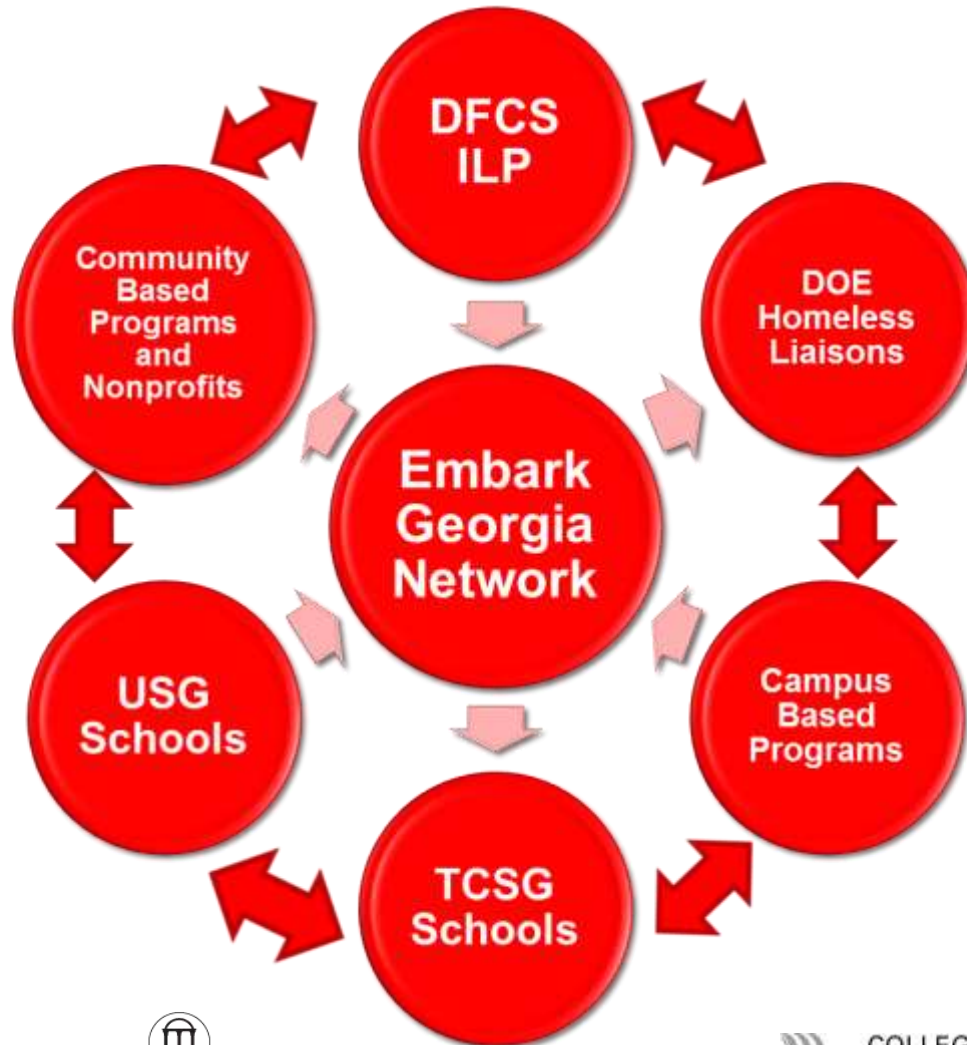
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# National Program Scan

- California: [Guardian Scholars](#) (campus based)
- Washington: [Passport and Governor's Scholarship](#) (statewide) and [Champions](#) (campus based)
- Michigan: [John Seita Scholars](#) (campus based) and [Fostering Success Michigan](#) (statewide)
- [Ohio/Texas/North Carolina/Alabama](#): Reach States (campus based/statewide)
- Virginia: [Great Expectations](#) (community college)



# Embark Georgia: Statewide Network



The Embark Georgia statewide network serves post-secondary professionals and institutions to ensure connectivity, share best practices, and provide information exchange among youth, community based stakeholders, and K-12 educators in support of former foster and homeless youth.



# Existing Campus Programming in GA

## Institutions with existing programs of support or interest in developing programs:

- Kennesaw State University: [CARE](#) (Homeless Specific)
- Savannah State University: [STAR](#)
- Albany State University: F2C
- Bainbridge College
- Albany Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College (Swainsboro campus)
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- The University of Georgia: [Embark](#)
- Others??



# Embark Georgia Partners

- **Casey Family Programs**
- **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)**
- **Community Based Organizations:**
  - Multi Agency Alliance for Children (MAAC)
  - Georgia Youth Opportunities Initiative (GYOI)
  - Orange Duffel Bag Initiative (ODB)
- **University System of Georgia (USG):** College Access Challenge Grant (CACG)
- **Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG)**
- **Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS):** Independent Living Program
- **Department of Education (DOE):** Homeless Education Program





# Questions?





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