

FIRST STAR'S NEW VIRTUAL PROGRAM:

STEAM ACADEMY

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math

FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

WHAT IS THE STEAM ACADEMY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE?

WHAT WILL IT ACCOMPLISH?

First Star's **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Academy for Social Justice** will expand our programming to include a national learning platform led by technology and grounded in social justice.

First Star will be building the virtual **STEAM Academy** through partnerships with universities throughout the country in addition to individuals and companies that will assist in developing age-appropriate, culturally responsive content.

The **STEAM Academy** aims to increase teenage foster youth engagement in STEAM careers with a series of interactive "Tech Talks" led by positive STEAM mentors as well as the expansion of technology in driving learning opportunities. Our objective is to guide more foster youth towards exciting STEAM careers with increased earning potential to help break the cycle of poverty and provide a greater opportunity to contribute to their community.



WHO WE ARE

First Star is a national nonprofit that improves the lives of foster youth by partnering with universities, child welfare agencies, and school districts to ensure foster youth have the academic, life skills, and adult supports needed to transition to higher education and adulthood successfully. We pursue our mission through innovative college-preparatory programs, providing technical assistance to stakeholders, and advocating for policy change.

First Star abundantly demonstrates by our high school graduation rates and college admission data that foster youth can transform their experiences of abuse and neglect to the life altering path of academic achievement and self-sufficiency.



FIRST STAR ACADEMIES

The First Star Academies are long-term college readiness programs for high school foster youth that includes four immersive residential summers on a university campus and monthly sessions during each school year. At First Star, 98% of our foster youth scholars who complete the Academy graduate from high school, and 87% go on to post-secondary education.

WHY FIRST STAR? WHY NOW?

- First Star acknowledges its responsibility to uplift foster youth and expand their understanding of the STEAM careers and the vital role they play in the 21st Century
- The Covid-19 crisis has motivated First Star to be a leader in transforming education, work, and social environments to be technologically savvy spaces that allow for continuous growth, development and connection
- Pervasive systemic racism against people of color has led to significant education and wealth gaps, health disparities, higher incidences of police brutality/death, incarceration, homelessness, indigence and higher incidences of placement in the child welfare system; these effects are amplified in the foster care system. With so many of our foster youth being people of color, First Star is committed to supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and aims to provide validation through representation as well as impactful opportunities centered on technology for our people of color youth

FIRST STAR'S STEAM ACADEMY GOALS & PRIORITIES



- Educate First Star scholars and other high school aged foster youth from across the nation as its participants.
- Introduce foster teens to real people who are working in STEAM fields designing tech, developing apps, and running companies that are changing the way we are being entertained, staying healthier, getting things done more efficiently, and powering our digital world
- Bring high-intervention education program to more foster youth – our goal is to reach 400 foster youth per session
- Uplift foster youth to become leaders of change in their communities, their state and their government
- Shift thinking from shrinking job fields to growing job fields and increase their earning potential and job security

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THE STEAM ACADEMY?

JOIN

Email us if you are a high school student interested in joining the STEAM Academy: programs@firststar.org

DONATE

Visit First Star's website donation page: www.firststar.org/donate

SPONSOR

Sponsor a Tech Talk or STEAM Academy initiative: prfundraising@firststar.org

LEAD A TECH TALK

Lead a Tech Talk or nominate a STEAM leader: programs@firststar.org