“College is a fast-paced, very independent experience that can quickly become overwhelming. My first semester was very confusing but with the help of dedicated staff I was provided with resources and materials that guaranteed my success. CONNECT is a great program for foster youth who want to gain higher education.”
-Jacob, Current Student

“When I first got here I was lost. Students will benefit from this program and get the help they need without having to search for what is needed on their own. CONNECT is a great opportunity for youth in foster care to get the resources available to them.”
- Jessica, Current Student

“The CONNECT program is great because it helps you learn about services and resources that you didn’t know were offered. It helps you to be successful in college.”
- Keenan, Current Student

WANT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CONNECT?

Contact Marisela Saenz
at (562) 908-3435
or msaenz@riohondo.edu
or
visit the Foster/Kinship Care Education & Independent Living Programs Office located in Room A207A
(2nd floor of the Administration Building)

*Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success Independent Living Program – CA (YESS-ILP)

Non-Discrimination Policy
Rio Hondo Community College District complies with all Federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, or physical or mental disability in any of its policies, programs, and services. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District’s Title IX Officer/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Dr. Dyrell Foster, Dean, Student Affairs, Student Services Building, 2nd Floor, Room SS-204, (562) 908-3498.
**CON**nections

**Necessary to Experience**

**College Transition (CONNECT)** is a collaborative support program designed to empower foster youth by assisting them in reaching their higher education and personal goals.

**Goals**

The goals of the program are to improve college access for current and former foster youth by providing support and resources to ensure a successful transition from foster care to independent living.

- Priority Registration (if eligible)
- Referrals to on-campus resources/services
  - Foster Youth Success Liaisons
  - Marisela Saenz - Foster/Kinship Care Education & Independent Living Programs (A207A)
  - Deborah V. Lopez - Financial Aid Office (SS130)
  - Academic Counseling (SS160)
  - Julius Thomas, Counselor
  - Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOP&S) (SS240)
  - Irma Caballero, EOP&S Evaluator
  - Yvette Garcia, EOP&S Counselor
  - CalWORKs (SS220)
  - Nellie Hernandez-Garcia, Interim Coordinator/Counselor
  - Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS) (SS330)
  - Mark Matsui, Director
  - TRIO Program (SS140)
  - Zoila Fisher, Director
  - Other Programs & Services
- Referrals to off-campus resources
  - Access to Transitional Resource Coordinators (ILP County Service & Benefits)
  - Housing, Educational Expenses, transportation, Medi-Cal, etc.
- Workshops (*YESS-ILP)
- College supplies
  (*YESS-ILP funding availability)
- Snack Pantry (located in the FKCE/ILP Office)
- Access to Student Computer/Printer (located in the FKCE/ILP Office)

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**Student Information**

- **Student Name:** ____________________________
- **SID #:** ____________________________
- **Date of Birth:** ____________________________
- **Address:** ___________________________________
- **Email:** ___________________________________
- **Phone Number:** ____________________________
- **County of Origin:** ____________________________
- **ILP Coordinator:** ____________________________

**Placement /Care Category:**

- Foster Care
- Kinship Relative Care
- Group Home
- Transitional Housing
- Probation

**Age Classification:**

- Youth (16-18)
- AB12 Youth (18-20)
- Emancipated Youth (19-21)
- Adult (22-24)
- Adult (24+)

**Signature:** ____________________________

Submit to the Foster/Kinship Care Education & Independent Living Programs Office located in Room A207A (2nd floor of the Administration Building)