



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Post Office Box 120128 • San Diego, CA 92112-0128

Release: Immediately
Date: 6/24/10

Contact: Karen Dalton
Phone: (619) 450-5353

Superior Court Leads Effort to Encourage Foster Youth to Attend College

The San Diego Superior Court, along with numerous groups and agencies, is sponsoring a free event to encourage foster youth to think about college as a realistic option.

Developed and initiated last year by then Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, Susan D. Huguenor, the event, titled "*I Can Go To College!*," is scheduled for **Saturday, June 26, 2010** and will be held at the **Hahn University Center on the campus of the University of San Diego (5998 Alcalá Park)** from **1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

The program is open to dependents, 12 years old and up, who reside in foster/kinship homes or with non-relative extended family members. It is estimated more than 550 young people fit that description in San Diego County.

This event is sponsored by: Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services and the Commission on Children, Youth and Families; San Diego County Office of Education, Foster Youth and Homeless Education Services; Cal-SOAP; Grossmont College-FAKCE; Casey Family Programs; San Diego Juvenile Court; and the University of San Diego Center for Community Service Learning.

"Last year we received such positive feedback from both the youth and the caregivers that we hope to make this an annual event," said Presiding Juvenile Court Judge Cynthia Bashant.

(more)

Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

NEWS RELEASE

Page 2 of 2

6/24/2010

The foster youth will get answers to questions about college, take a tour of the campus, and see a dorm room. They will also listen to a panel of former foster youth who will share their college experiences.

“San Diego County Office of Education believes that every young person should have exposure to the opportunities that post-secondary education offers. For students in foster care, it becomes the responsibility of our entire community to give them access to this information. We want every student in foster care to know that there is a support network out there for them when they leave foster care, and that higher education is the gateway to a successful adulthood,” says Dr. Michelle Lustig, MSW, Ed.D, Coordinator, SDCOE, Foster Youth and Homeless Education Services.

“The University of San Diego is deeply committed to promoting and expanding opportunities for foster youth and their caregivers to access and succeed in higher education. We are honored to support this great event, and we are excited to welcome the participants to our campus,” says Brenna Hughes, Program Director, USD Center for Community Service-Learning.

Registration for the event starts at 1:00 p.m. and the program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Free parking is available in the Mission Parking structure.

#