

Destination Graduation 2020: Forging the Way Forward!

Essay, Video, and Visual Art Contest

May 22nd - 23rd, 2020 – Cleveland State University



Contestants: The contest is open to youth currently engaged in the foster care system and approaching emancipation and or high school completion and any CSU student that has been “impacted by the foster care system. All applicants must reside in the state of Ohio.

When: **All submissions and entry forms must be submitted by Noon EST, May 5, 2020** (No Exceptions). The entry form includes instructions for submitting your essay, video, and visual art. Please complete your essay before submitting the entry form.

What: **The essay, video, and visual art** submissions must respond to the contest theme.

The **essay** submission must be the original work of the participant and must not exceed 1000 words. Citations and cover page information are excluded from the word count. Essays must be typed double-spaced using 12 pt. Times New Roman font and submitted as a Microsoft Word (.doc /.docx or pdf). Please note that **No identification** information of students may be included anywhere except on the cover page. Only one essay may be submitted per contestant. A complete submission packet must include:

- A contest entry form completed and submitted online.
- A cover page to the essay with only the full name of the student, the name of the school and the word count.
- The essay uploaded and submitted online with the completed cover page and contest entry form.

The **video** submission must capture the participant responding to the contest theme through poetry/spoken word, song, monologue, etc. Show us your creativity! The performance must refrain from explicit or derogatory lyrics, be the original work of the participant, and not exceed 2 minutes in length. Only one video may be submitted per contestant. A complete submission packet must include:

- The video uploaded and submitted online with the completed contest entry form.

Visual artwork submissions must be the original work of the participant and creatively incorporates the contest theme. Only one submission per contestant. A complete submission packet must include:

- One piece of visual art uploaded and submitted online with the completed contest entry form.



CONTEST THEME: *In 2019 Gov. Mike DeWine shared his concerns about Ohio's overwhelmed Foster Care system, with 16,000 foster children in care, a 30% increase since 2011 mainly attributable to opioid-addicted parents. As a youth impacted by the care system, what does access to a high-quality education mean to you, and in what ways could the care system best prepare youth in the future to leverage the transformative power of learning to impact the lives of those in care?*

Recognition: First Prize (1) - \$1000 Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$500-dollar cash value prize, Second Place \$500 Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$250-dollar cash value prize, 3rd place

\$ 250 Book Scholarship to Cleveland State University and a \$100-dollar cash value prize. Winners will be announced on May 22nd, 2020 and recognized at The Helen-Packer Scholarship award Gala on that same day. **(ALL SCHOLARSHIPS MUST BE APPLIED TO CLEVELAND STATE UNIVEIRSITY, AND MUST BE USED WITHIN ONE CALANDER YEAR OF AWARD).**

Target: **Destination Graduation 2020: Forging the Way Forward!** is a student summit on post-secondary options for youth impacted by care. Participants in Destination Graduation are youth currently engaged in the foster care system and approaching emancipation and/or high school completion and any CSU student that has been "impacted by the foster care system". **(Please note that notice of the summit, Essay Contest, and Scholarship opportunities will be sent to school administrators, students, community support agencies, and regional stakeholders engaged in foster youth advocacy).**