THE WHIT PROGRAM

Weekly Hands-on Independent Tutoring Program

whitprogram.org

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Jennifer Lisson
President and Founder

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BOARD MEMBERS



Jennifer Lisson
President and Founder



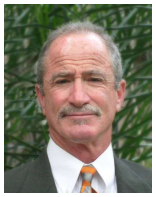
Dr. Patsy Roberts Cleere
Adjunct Professor of Ed; ASU



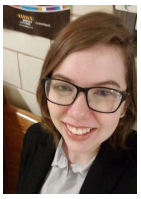
Sharanda El-Masri
Businesswoman
Charitable advocate



Travis Garmon
CPA
Armstrong Backus & Co.



David Halpern
Fmr Asst Gen Counsel of TAMU



Elisha Lisson
Attorney



Jeff Lisson
Vice President and General Counsel



Christopher Lynn
Businessman and consultant



Liliana Mata
Dept Family and Protective Services



Vicki Spriggs
CEO of Teas CASA



Elaine Stribling
Asst. Prof Education; ASU

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STAFF



Jennifer Lisson
President and Founder



Rebekah Baltran
Director of Operations



Makayla Davidson
Director of Development



Jeff Lisson
Vice President/ General Counsel

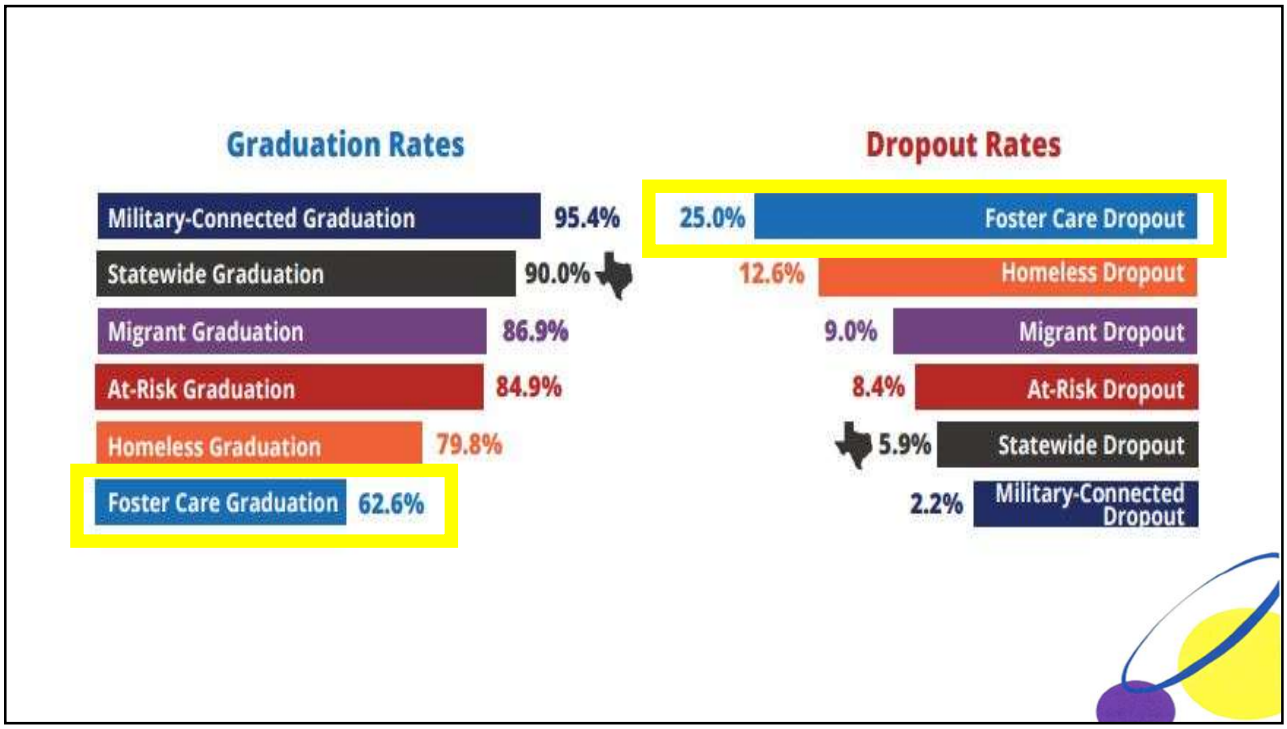


Pat Pastors, MRC, LPC, CRC
Mental Health Consultant



Matt Miiller
Director of External Relations

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The Foster Care Statistics

- 33,000+ foster children in Texas
  - the average number of placements for a child in care is three. (National Institute of Health)
  - over one-third of children in care have more than three placements.
- For every new placement, a child falls 6-9 months behind academically
- WHIT is the only program approved by DFPS that addresses this free of charge
- Foster care to prison pipeline
  - Prisons base the number of beds they will need in the coming year on the number of children aging out of foster care
- Foster care to homeless pipeline



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50% of homeless people have been in foster care

40% of former foster children will be homeless within two years

80% of prisoners have been in foster care

70% of female foster children are pregnant by 21

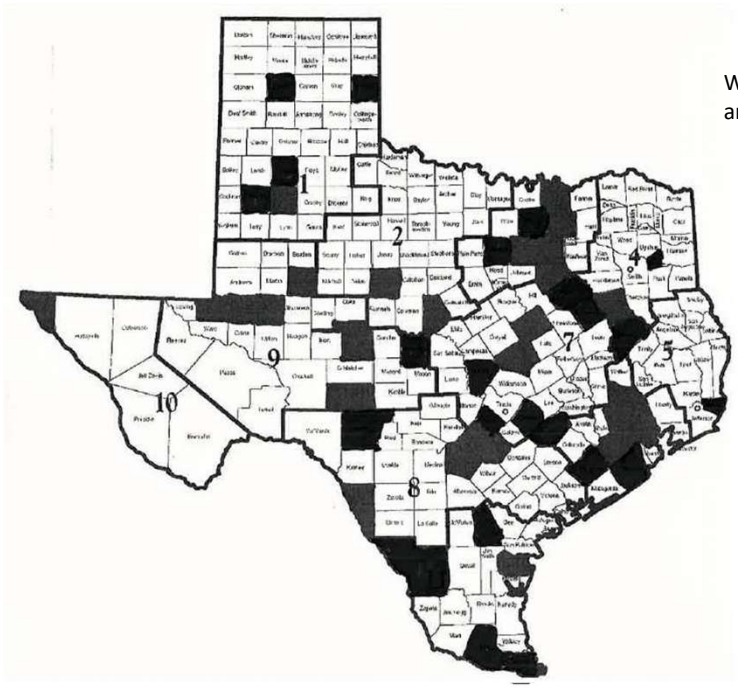
50% of former fosters will be unemployed at 26

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"The average high school dropout will cost taxpayers over $292,000 in lower tax revenues, higher cash and in-kind transfer costs, and imposed incarceration costs relative to an average high school graduate."

- Center for Labor Market Studies, Northeastern University, 2009

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We serve over 92 counties and we are continuing to grow.

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OUR MISSION

Foster children start out behind. We catch them up!

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OUR GOAL

The WHIT Program strives to help children in foster care gain the skills and confidence to stay in school.

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How WHIT works



1. Serving Foster Children in K-12
2. Student must not be in an gov't assisted program
3. Once a week – one hour
4. In public or via Zoom
5. We do not transport children
6. Referred by Child Protective Services
7. Confidential
8. Do accept 504 kids and children that have not been tested for a learning disability yet

Transforming from survival brain to learning brain

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CASPIO Platform



1. Allows CASA access to their child only
2. Tutors annotate sessions for their student
3. Session reports will include; missed sessions and why, length of the session, location of session, and were there any signs of abuse/neglect
4. Provides our staff lists of students, tutors, CASA, and CPS worker is available

Transforming from survival brain to learning brain

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Tutor Expectations

1. Say yes!
2. Complete Background Check (DFPS and Criminal)
3. Sign Confidentiality Agreement
4. Learn how to identify abuse and neglect
5. Complete 3-hour Online Training course led by two ASU Professors

Tutor Commitment

Commit one hour a week

- 45 minutes with the student
- 15 minutes documenting the visit



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What is in it for the foster child?

Academic Support

- **One-on-one attention**: Personalized instruction tailored to their pace and needs.
- **Homework help & test prep**: Consistent support in challenging subjects or upcoming exams.
- **Improved grades and understanding**: Clarifies confusing topics and builds confidence.

Near-Peer Mentorship

- **Relatable role model**: College-age tutors are close enough in age to be approachable but mature enough to offer guidance.
- **Inspiration for higher education**: Seeing a college student can spark interest and motivation to pursue their own academic goals.
- **Safe space to ask questions**: Less intimidating than asking a teacher or adult.

Boost in Confidence

- **Encouragement and praise**: Helps build self-esteem through positive reinforcement.
- **Safe learning environment**: Mistakes are okay—creates room for growth without judgment.

Development of Study Skills

- **Learning how to learn**: Tutors often model organization, note-taking, and test strategies.
- **Time management tips**: College students can pass on habits they use to juggle classes and responsibilities.



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What is in it for the tutor?

Development of Transferable Skills

- **Communication**: Simplifying complex ideas improves articulation and adaptability.
- **Leadership**: Takes initiative in guiding and mentoring.
- **Problem-solving**: Learns to troubleshoot academic and behavioral challenges.
- **Patience and empathy**: Learns how to adjust to different learning styles and emotional needs.

Resume and Career Building

- **Professional experience**: Shows initiative, responsibility, and teaching skills—especially valuable for education, psychology, or social work majors.
- **Letters of recommendation**: Supervisors or parents may be great future references.
- **Community involvement**: Demonstrates a commitment to service and civic engagement.

Personal Growth

- **Confidence boost**: Success as a tutor enhances self-esteem and belief in one's abilities.
- **Sense of purpose**: Helping others can be deeply fulfilling.
- **Time management**: Balancing tutoring with studies fosters strong organizational habits.



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Campus Champions



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AWARDS

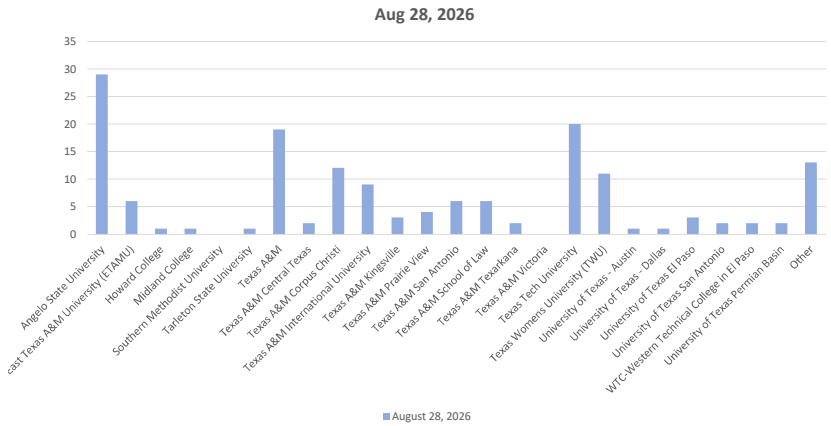
Each Group that recruits 10 volunteers will receive a $500 award for the group

The academic department or student group that recruits the most active tutors in each category receives:

- Recognition on The WHIT Program's website and social media
- Certificate and optional in-person or virtual recognition events
- Recognition at the Annual Brighter Minds Brighter Futures Gala
- An Award to the academic department or student group activities
  - Small Colleges/Universities (≤ 5000 students) - $2000
  - Medium Colleges/Universities (5,001- 15,000 students - $2000
  - Large Colleges/Universities (≤15,001 students) - $2000
- Additionally, all tutors who complete both semesters will receive a gift card as a token of our appreciation

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Fall Semester 2026 Tutors at Universities:
159 Active Tutors



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Over 30 Universities that collaborate with The WHIT Program

Angelo State University
Baylor University
Howard College
Lubbock Christian University
Midland College
SMU
Sul Ross State University
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University
Texas A&M University Central Texas
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University Galveston Campus
Texas A&M International University
Texas A&M University Kingsville
Prairie View A&M University
Texas A&M University San Antonio
Texas A&M University School of Law
Texas A&M University Texarkana
Texas A&M University Victoria
Texas Tech
Texas Woman's University
UNT University of North Texas
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
UT San Antonio
The University of Texas Permian Basin
Western Technical College

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QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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