



THE PRATT PROMISE

Why We Matter - Our Story
Special Edition
An Invitation to Get Involved

Welcome to all youth that have aged out of Foster Care. Learn the steps to engage the support of the Pratt Center in achieving your academic goals.

dive

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DURING MY TIME AS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS FOR THE PRATT CENTER AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY, I HAVE BEEN REMINDED OFTEN OF A STORY MY MOTHER SHARED WITH ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD. THE STORY HAS BEEN TOLD MANY TIMES IN MANY DIFFERENT CULTURAL SETTINGS. STILL, I WOULD ENCOURAGE US ALL TO HEAR IT AS I DID WITH THE OPENNESS OF YOUTH, THE INTENTIONALITY OF KNOWLEDGE, AND THE EMPATHY OF A STUDENT. - JARRETT PRATT

"Carrots, Eggs, & Coffee"

One day, a woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. The woman did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give up. The woman was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as soon as she solved one problem, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen, where she filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon all three of the pots came to boil. In the first pot, she put carrots. In the second, she placed eggs. In the last, she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND OHIO

EXCERPTS FROM INTERVIEW WITH TINA JACOB

Q: What is the name of your organization and what is your role?

A: My name is Tina Jacob, and I am with the Ohio Children's Alliance and my role is a program manager. I oversee our Ohio Reach programming as well as our...peer mentorship programming.

Basically, everything I do revolves around improving outcomes for young adults that have foster care experience.

Q: What is your connection with the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program?

A: The Ohio Reach Program is a grant through ODHE that works to connect young adults that are about to age out of care. The program is designed to connect them to programs in the higher ed[ucation] space...We help to show them that higher education is accessible. We partner with schools to identify liaisons to provide them with information that will better equip them and enhance connection points for youth that are looking to get into colleges.

Q: How does your organization improve the community?

A: We do a lot of information connection with the state and partners. This information may not actually be getting to the students. We really try to gather as much information as we can through our liaisons and then have direct access to students for scholarships and funding dollars.

Q: How is your organization different from others of its kind?

A: Ohio Reach is unique in that we are trying to unite different schools across the state or different organizations such as the financial aid offices... making sure we as a state are at the front of things and other initiatives that are happening across the country.

Q: What are some things that people may not know about your organization?

A: There is not too much that people may not know. One thing that is newer is our peer mentorship program that started back in January. We hired four young people that have foster care experience... They are responsible for mentoring young adults with foster care backgrounds that have recently emancipated or they're about to emancipate from care... Their goal is to really guide these young people as they emancipate and identify their goals and how we can support them.

Q: How do you unite the mission of your organization with the community?

A: Performance improvement and member support. This is where I would be classified as working with our network on different campuses. This ensures they are properly equipped and that they know who to talk to and make sure they have a specific resource and exactly who to reach out to. They can reach out to me and ...they know I will find an answer for them.

Q: With the global and national events of the past Spring season, how do you create opportunities to assemble a dialogue surrounding the persistent issues of race, inclusion, respect for health, and life?

A: With our mentors before they went out to the workplace to work with young people, we put them under a week of training where we discussed a lot about microaggressions in the workplace. What does it look like to be discriminated against in the workplace? What does it look like to have justice at the core [of the workplace]? We had wonderful discussions and input. We hope to continue this type of dialogue at the youth lead level.

Q: In your interactions with humanity at large, what one or two fundamental components have you learned about people?

A: There are a lot of genuinely good people who want to help and make a change. They system is really good at knocking [people] down...I've learned that the human component is still there. There are people that want to make a difference and want to make a change.



SCAN THE CODE TO HEAR
THE ENTIRE INTERVIEW.
YOU WILL NEED TO
DOWNLOAD A FREE QR
CODE READER APP
ON YOUR SMARTPHONE,
IPAD, OR TABLET

The Sullivan - Deckard Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is The Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program?

A: Established in 2015, this scholarship provides an opportunity for highly motivated youth aging out of foster care to pursue an undergraduate degree at CSU.

Q: Who is eligible?

A: Foster care youth at least 17 years of age positioned for high school graduation and college admission by the fall semester of the current year. Applicants must be under 20 years of age and be a resident of the state of Ohio.

Q: What does the Scholarship provide?

A: THE FOLLOWING ARE THE SEVEN CORE PROGRAM COMPONENTS

1. Last-dollar in financial aid for tuition and educational cost related to books and instructional resources.
2. Year-round housing with an approved year-round meal plan.
3. Academic coaching and institutional support services, including tutoring, peer mentoring and extended learning opportunities.
4. On-campus employment with career advising and mentoring.
5. Campus and community engagement with over 40 volunteers pledged to provide additional student support.
6. Peer assistance, mentoring, and support.
7. A structured Transition Plan for University life and academic success.

Q: I didn't know about this when I was in care. Is it too late to apply for scholarships? Where do I start?

A: The Pratt Center at Cleveland State University has a range of supports focused on increasing post-secondary opportunities available to persons who have experienced the foster care system in the state of Ohio.

Q: How do I receive my scholarship funds?

A: Scholarship funds are applied directly to student accounts.

Q: Do I have to fill out a FAFSA to get a scholarship?

A: Yes.

Q: How do I figure out what college will cost me?

A: The Pratt Center at Cleveland State University would be happy to sit down with you and create a personalized transition plan.

Q: Are there scholarships for Community College or technical/vocational college students?

A: Yes. We offer a range of micro-credential programs. For more information contact Jarrett Pratt, Director of the Pratt Center at j.g.pratt@csuohio.edu.

https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/Sullivan%20-%20Deckard%202020%20-%20%202021%20edit_0.pdf



Cut and paste the link
to the application above.
Or scan the code with your
smartphone or tablet to
access the application.

YOU'RE OFF MUTE!

VIRTUAL PEP RALLY

A CELEBRATION FOR YOUNG CREATORS IMPACTED BY FOSTER CARE



SCAN THE CODE TO HEAR THE EVENT. YOU WILL NEED TO DOWNLOAD A FREE QR CODE READER APP ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, IPAD, OR TABLET



@THEPRATTCENTER

Division of Diversity, Inclusion and University Engagement

Additional Scholarships available after freshman semester at Cleveland State University include:



Mathilde Jane Gutow Endowed Fund

<https://www.csuohio.edu/sites/default/files/MJG-Fostering%20Success%20%26%20Leadership%20Application%20Packet%20.pdf>



Helen Packer Scholarship Program

<https://www.csuohio.edu/engagement/helen-packer-scholarship-program>



Cut and paste the URL links to the applications above. Or scan the codes with your smartphone or tablet to access the applications.

Who doesn't love an old school Pep Rally? This event was a heart-warming "throwback" to what most of us of a certain age recall as sort of a battle cry to ignite action, harmony, and camaraderie in pursuit of a united objective. Now more than ever, we see the need for such mobilization amongst our students. Scan the code to listen as our students expressed their unmuted thoughts and earned scholarship dollars!

**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO 2020?
YOU'RE OFF MUTE!**

IF YOU'RE A YOUNG CREATOR IMPACTED BY FOSTER CARE, YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY. HOW DID YOU EXPRESS YOURSELF IN 2020? DID YOU WRITE POETRY? PAINT? DANCE? SING? DID YOU BUILD SOMETHING? WHATEVER FORM YOU USED TO EXPRESS YOURSELF, WE WANT TO SEE YOUR ART.

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE ELGIBLE FOR UP TO \$2000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY AT CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY!

Submissions are currently closed. Please check back frequently for upcoming opportunities.
Contact: ThePrattPromise@Gmail.com

After some time passed, the mother turned off the burners.

She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl.

She pulled the eggs out and put them in a bowl.

Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her daughter, she asked, 'Tell me what you see.'

'Carrots, eggs, and coffee,' she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to

feel the carrots. She did and noted that they

were soft. The mother then asked the daughter

to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell,

she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, the mother

asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as

she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked,

'What does it mean, mother?'

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting.

However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile.

Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior,

but its inside became hardened after sitting

through the boiling water. The ground coffee beans

were unique; however, after they were in the

boiling water, they had changed the water.

'Which are you?' she asked her daughter.

'When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?'

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong,

but with pain and adversity, do I wilt and become

soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a

malleable heart but changes with the heat? Did I have a

fluid spirit, but after a death, a breakup, a financial hardship,

or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff?

Does my shell look the same, but on the inside, am I bitter

and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?



Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot, it releases the fragrance and flavor. If you are like the bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

It is a tremendous honor to serve you in this role, and as we begin this year, please allow me this space to say: may you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to make you happy. The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches. When you were born, you were crying, and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life, so at the end, you're the one who is smiling, and everyone around you is crying.
May we all be COFFEE OR TEA!

