This foster youth friendly logo was created to symbolize a safe and supportive environment or person, familiar with both the issues and challenges that youth from foster care face. College students who see this symbol will know that staff are equipped to assist them in higher education.

This logo was designed for the California Community College Chancellors Office with the creative assistance of All Student Loans. Guidance and input from current and former foster youth, college financial aid administrators, social workers, state leaders from post secondary education and Department of Social Services, County Independent Living Program personnel, and K-12 representatives was provided in the development of the graphic.

During field testing with stakeholders throughout California, and most importantly students from foster care the color blue was selected to coincide with the Foster Care Awareness month blue ribbon. The focal point of the graphic is a larger heart wrapped around a smaller heart symbolizing the need for wrap-around services and support for youth from foster care in higher education. The left side of the hearts are larger and represents a need for the presence and permanency of caring and supportive adults in the lives of youth from foster care. Finally, and most importantly, the smaller right side of the heart symbolizes successful achievement of the youth's aspirations and dreams including their graduation from college symbolized by the mortarboard cap on the graduates head.

It is our sincere desire that other campuses across the nation will adopt this as the universal symbol of understanding and support for higher education students from foster care.

Those organizations that adopt the symbol do so in a shared commitment to actively support students from foster care accessing and successfully completing post secondary education. Organizations employing the use of the symbol should demonstrate through programs and services their understanding of the unique circumstances and challenges the youth are confronted with, while at the same time focusing on the achievement of their goals of education as an avenue to independence and self realization.

The organizations listed below support this publication as an important tool that will provide youth and those that serve them with the knowledge and skills to navigate the path to higher education success.