

## **Education Reach for Texans 9th Annual Conference Call for Presenters/Proposals**

### **When & where is the conference:**

The 9th Annual Education Reach for Texans Conference is hosted by North Central Texas Community College (NCTC), Texas Woman's University (TWU), and the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton, Texas. The conference dates are **Friday and Saturday June 1-2, 2018** and the event will be held at the **Embassy Suites** (100 Town Center Trail, Denton, TX 76207).

### **Who Attends:**

For the past eight years 150-250 child welfare practitioners, researchers, and foster care liaisons and advocates join us for our annual conference. Every 2-year and 4-year institution/college/university in Texas is required to have a liaison for foster care alumni, we want to successfully prepare liaisons for their roles in supporting students on their campuses and challenge existing programs to grow and do more. The conference will offer opportunities to build partnerships, grow your networks, enhance your programs, gain support, and establish strong accountability systems.

**Please read all information before applying to present to ensure you understand this year's conference theme, structure, and goals.**

**Questions can be directed to Shannon Mann-Butler:**

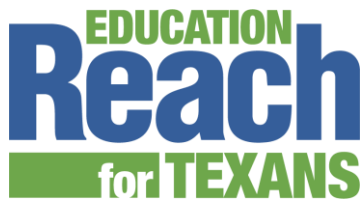
**[shannon.mann@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:shannon.mann@austin.utexas.edu)**

### **Presenter selection & registration:**

Reach will review presenter applications on a rolling basis until March 16, 2018. We will not consider incomplete applications. We plan to make all selections and notify presenters by the end of March 2018. Presenters selected will be entitled to a conference registration discount but will be required to register for the conference.

### **Conference Theme: Pathway to Success: People, Passion & Purpose**

We are looking for proposals that demonstrate meaningful, effective, and sustainable collaborations across research, policy, and practice to increase learning opportunities for all. There will be opportunities for child welfare providers and foster care liaisons to build skills and learn best practices, as well as opportunities for young people use their voice and to grow their leadership abilities. Depending on the proposals we receive there could be workshops for professionals in the field and workshops aimed at a mixed audience of youth and professionals. Please take a look at some of our priority topics below as you craft your proposal.



Some examples of topics of interest related to foster care alumni and post-secondary education include:

**Building Support (People):**

- Post-secondary education benefits
- Supervised Independent Living (SIL) Programs
- Innovative proposals that address supporting foster care alumni in post-secondary education
- Innovative ways to assist with mental health
- College preparation
- Building strong youth/adult partnerships on campus
- Examples of FCA voice in action, youth stories, and Q&A panels
- Human Trafficking
- Creative self-expression (art, poetry, etc.)
- Avoiding Burnout
- Supporting the transition to adulthood/aging out

**Building Programs & Networks (Passion)**

- Challenges and rewards from campus foster care alumni programs
- Collaborative community projects to support foster care alumni success
- Foster care alumni experience
- Team work/Collaboration
- Using Social Media to reach youth
- LGBTQ Youth Topics
- Trauma Informed Care Topics
- Employee Retention & Supervision
- Supervision of Youth in Peer Roles
- Leadership/Skill Building

**Building Accountability Systems (Purpose)**

- Academic research on foster care alumni in post-secondary education
- Starting, sustaining, and/or funding foster care alumni programs on college campuses
- Program Evaluation
- Data Tracking
- Legislative and Policy updates

**Session Format:** Sessions are 50 minutes long, but longer conference sessions will be considered as Part A/B back to back and could occur on Friday or Saturday.

You can register for the conference, book a hotel, and get more information on the Reach website.

[Just Click Here!](#)