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**ACCESS IS MORE THAN OPENING THE DOOR:  
CULTIVATING PATHWAYS TO CAREER AND  
COLLEGE FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS**

# INTRODUCTIONS

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**Dr. Chapman** - First Star Central Florida Academy, Director

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**Sonia Ledger** - Lead Teacher Simon Youth Academy

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Students: Dawnasia Coleman, Jerico Rivera , Amari Blakey & Paige Goff

# Goals for today's presentation:

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Attendees will leave the session with,

- The knowledge to challenge their own and others' biases and misconceptions about students who have been impacted by poverty and trauma.
- The dialogue to begin conversations with educational decision makers that will enhance existing structures and increase academic student engagement by investing in social and emotional development.
- Best practices and opportunities for collaboration to create pathways to career and college for students who have been impacted by poverty and trauma.
- Ideas on how to become an empowerment agent within your organization.



# Activity 1 ACE TEST

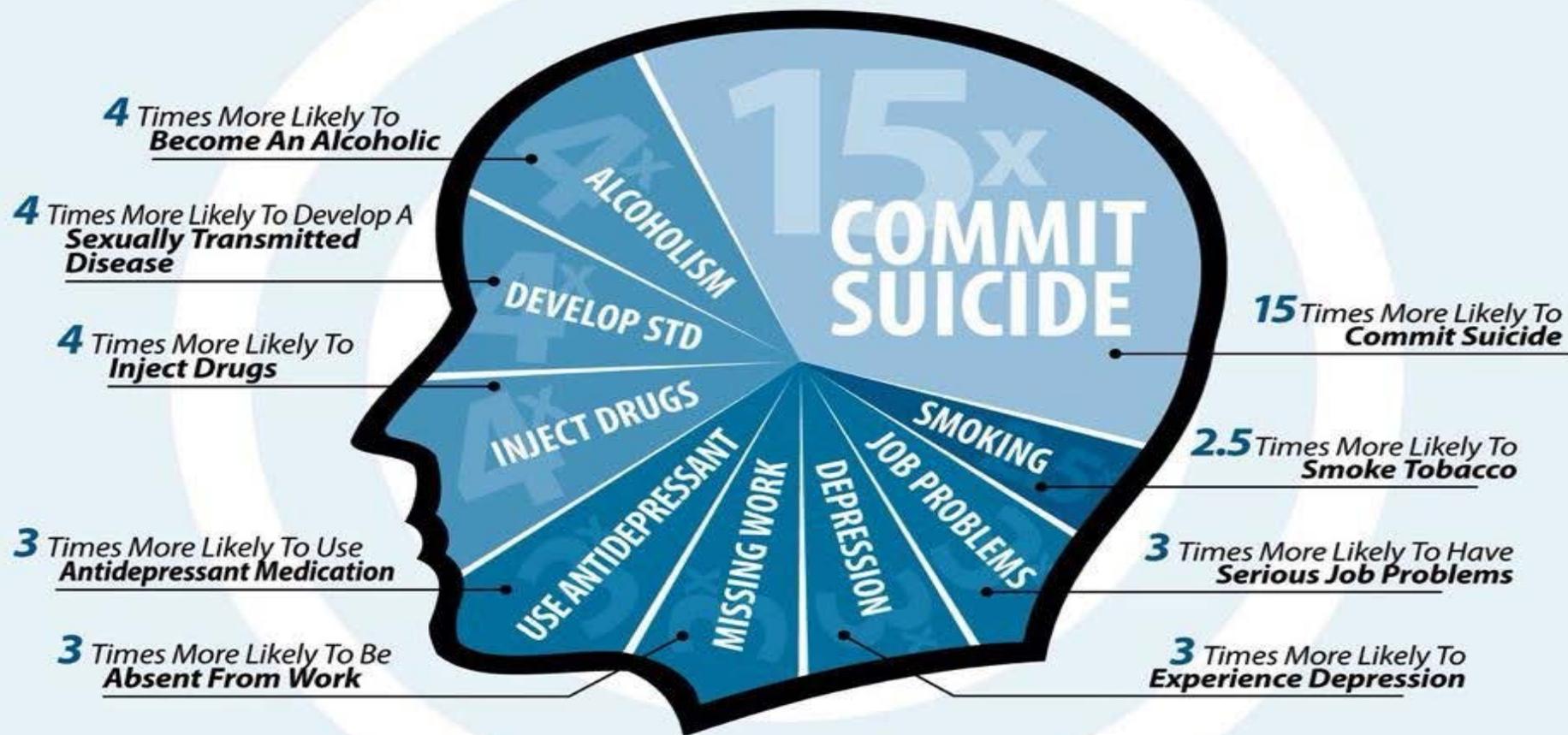
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On your web browser type the following link:

[pollev.com/deshawnchapm194](https://pollev.com/deshawnchapm194)

- Anonymous
- Confidential

# PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA ARE:



# ACES can have lasting effects on....



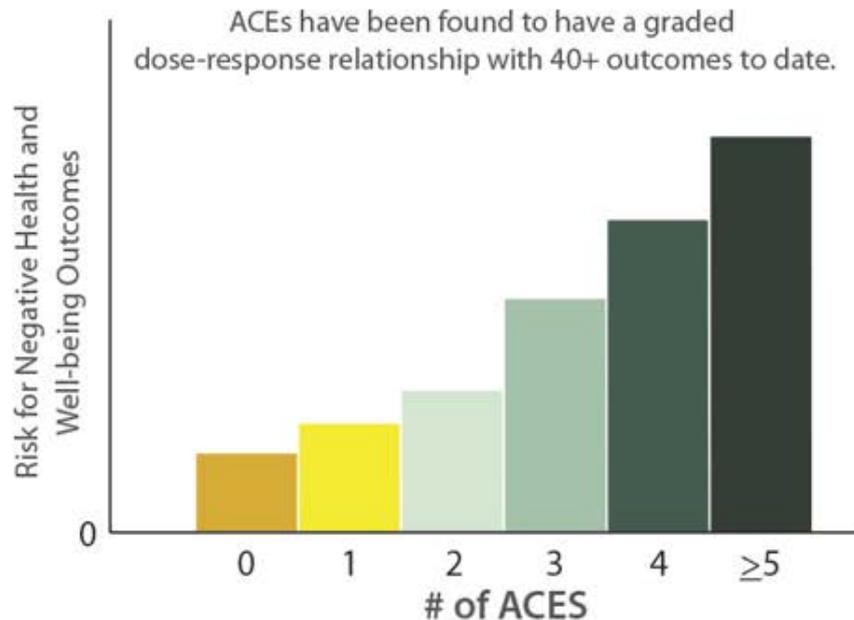
Health (obesity, diabetes, depression, suicide attempts, STDs, heart disease, cancer, stroke, COPD, broken bones)



Behaviors (smoking, alcoholism, drug use)



Life Potential (graduation rates, academic achievement, lost time from work)



\*This pattern holds for the 40+ outcomes, but the exact risk values vary depending on the outcome.

# Economic Impact of Foster Care Youth Transitions

**TABLE I: COSTS AVOIDED IF YOUNG PEOPLE TRANSITIONING FROM FOSTER CARE HAD OUTCOMES SIMILAR TO THEIR PEERS IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Indicator	Cost Estimate	Time Frame
Cost of not completing high school	\$2,170,000,000	lifetime gross income
Early parenthood	\$295,400,000	cost of early parenthood (parental income loss, medical expenses and the likelihood of the child ending up in foster care) for the first 15 years of the child's life
Homelessness	\$9,600,000	cost of a bed per night across homeless episodes
Incarceration	\$1,627,700,000	cost of per-day detention, cost to society and victim and recidivism rate
Total Costs Avoided > > > > \$4.1 billion		

If adolescents transitioning out of foster care had housing at the rate of the general population,

**4,370**

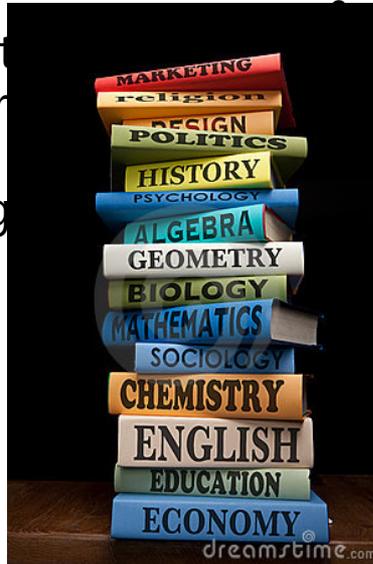
fewer individuals would experience homelessness.

# Empowerment agents creating pathways

## Traditional .vs. Non Traditional

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- Academics -
  - Instructional strategies
  - Classroom Culture
- Post secondary -
  - Lifelong Learning
  - Self-Efficacy
- Careers
  - Exposure



- Bringing community to students
  - Purpose for learning
  - Social Capital
- Social Emotional learning
  - Impact of trauma and development of brain
  - Strategies and space to deconstruct experiences

# Student Panel

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Dawnasia Coleman

Apopka High School, Senior

Jerico Rivera

Universal Education Center, Senior

Amari Blakey

Simon Youth Academy, Junior

Paige Goff

Simon Youth Academy, Junior

# Activity 2 Parking Lot



# Institutional Agency vs Empowerment Agency

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**Institutional agents** “act on behalf of another to directly transmit institutional support (*resources, opportunities, privileges, services*) which are highly valued, yet differently allocated within any organization or society that is invested in social inequity and in hierarchical form of control and organization.”

**Empowerment agents** “strive to empower low-status youth with varied forms of institutional support, and in doing so are willing to disembody themselves from the reproductive practices of their institution and become a moral agent for positive change.”

Stanton-Salazar, R. (2011). A social capital framework for the study of institutional agents and their role in the empowerment of low-status students and youth. *Youth & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/0044118X10382877

## **Activity 3 - How can you as a community member be an empowerment agent?**

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List resources and access to:

Knowledge

Organizations

People

# Final Reflection

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In reference to your role in creating pathways; for college and career to underserved students; how would you respond to the following prompt.

I used to think.....but now I  
think

# Are you an Empowerment Agent?

