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FACT Scholars

Fostering Academic Confidence Together

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Director, Academic Success

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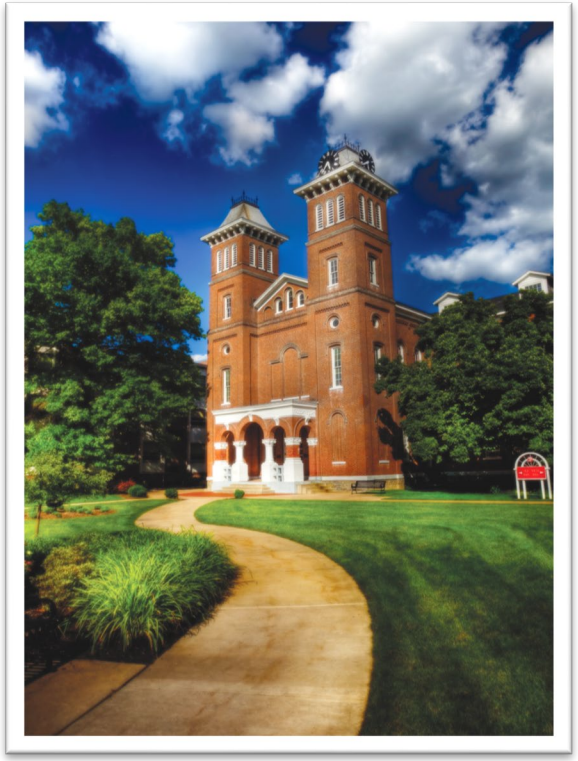
The FACT Scholar Project



Background

- University of Penn's Field Center
  - Point of Contact
  - Success Coach
  - Housing
  - Workshops
  - Counseling
  - Social Work Department's partnerships with agencies

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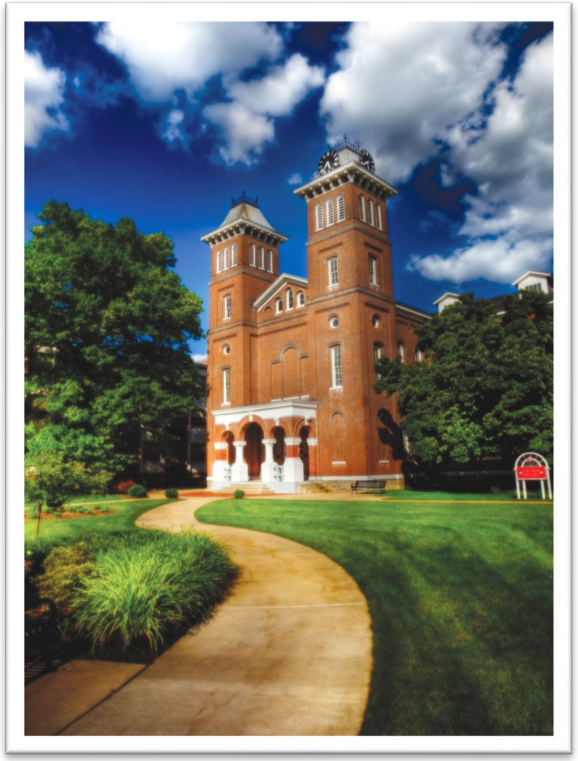

Baseline data

- Spring 19 - 31 total Cal U students
- Fall 19 – 24 total Cal U students

- Only 5 students each year are receiving Chafee from each of these school years.

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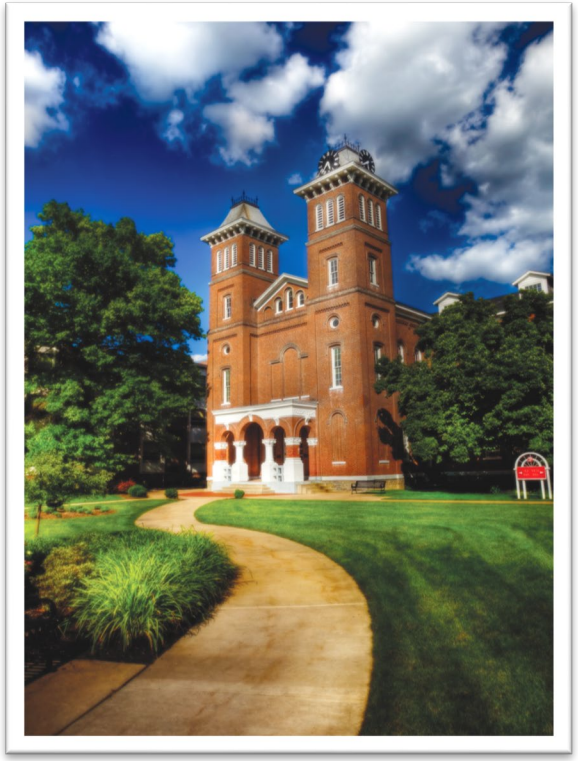

What happened…

- Anonymous Donor - $10,000
  - Supplies (living/educational), meetings
- In Fall 19, we have 6 new students
  - Two of the new students are actively participating
- Housing

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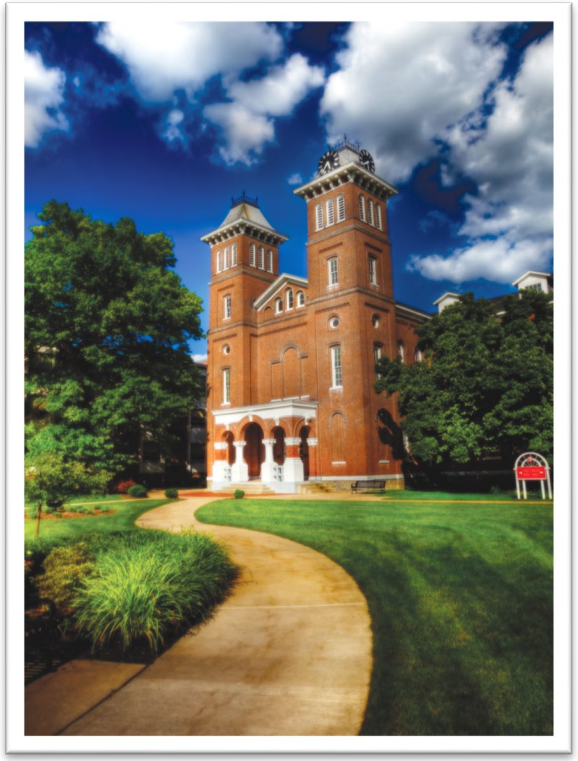

Their stories…

- Student #1 – “the dancer”
- Student #2 – “the summer bridge”
- Student #3 – “the adopted”
- Student #4 – “the nonresponded”
- Student #5 – “the athlete”
- Student #6 – “the leader”

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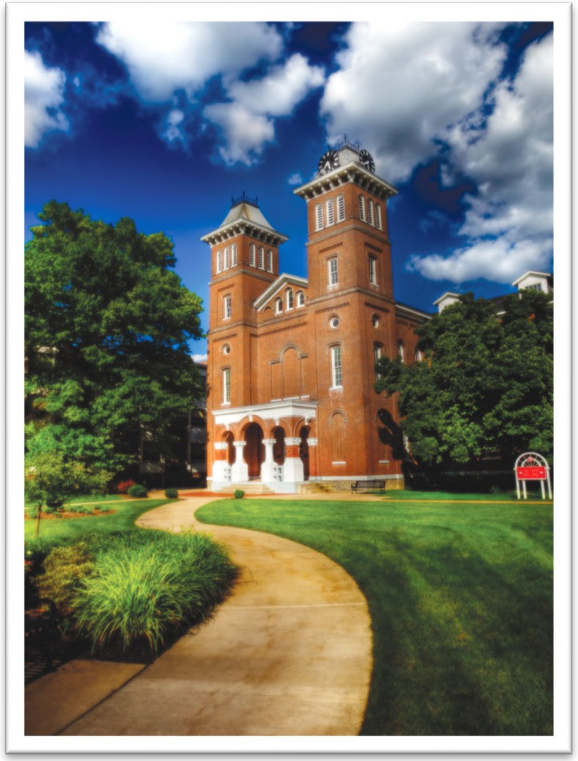

Building a Foundation

- Meetings
  - Independent Living Coordinators meeting
  - Cal U team (team members, domains)
- Marketing
  - To agencies, high schools, and current Cal U students, New Student Orientation/Open Houses
  - Chafee posters

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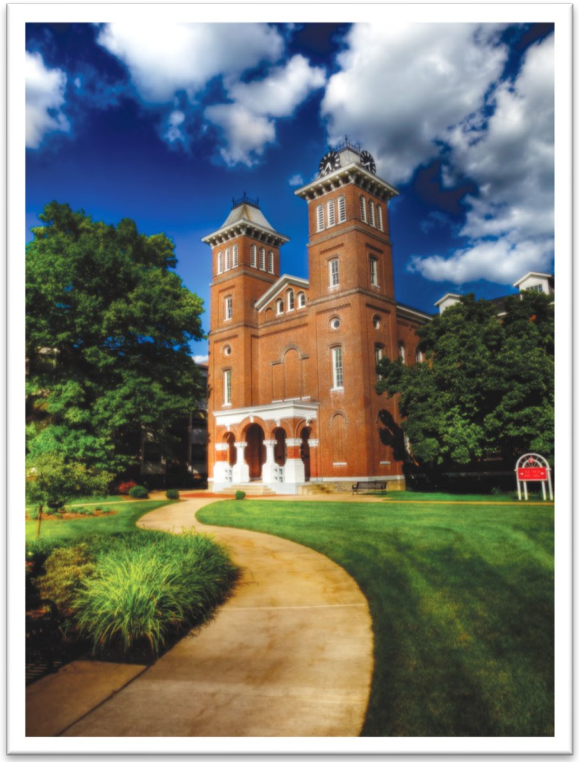
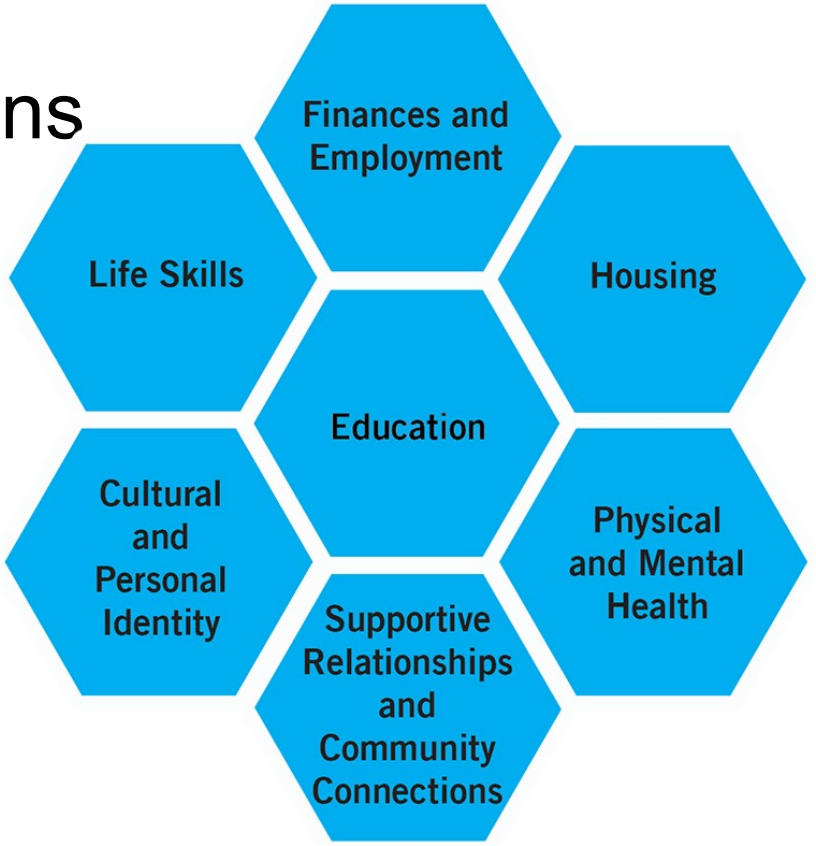


7 Life Domains



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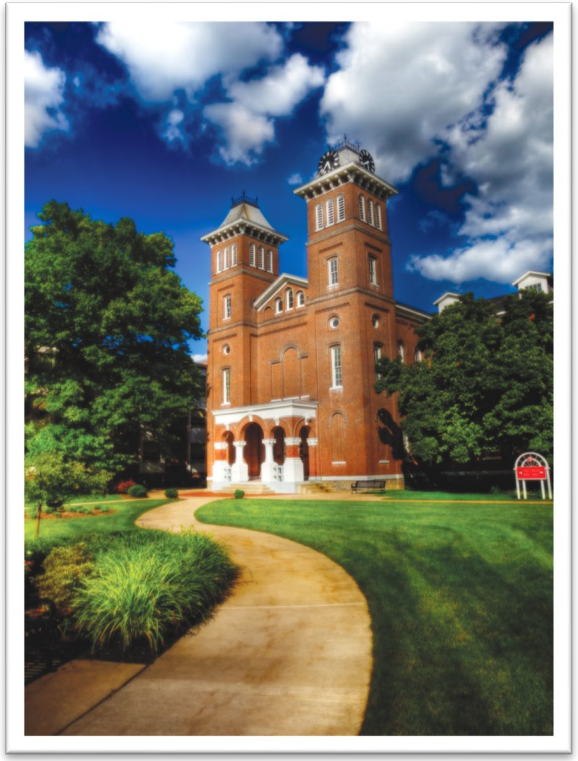

New Ideas

- Intake Forms (medical benefits, food stamps, etc.)
- Advocates at NSO/Open Houses
  - Arranging for transportation when needed
- CWEL or more social work interns
- Build relationships with agencies
- Provide workshops to high school students through agencies (FAFSA, academic success, conduct focus groups)

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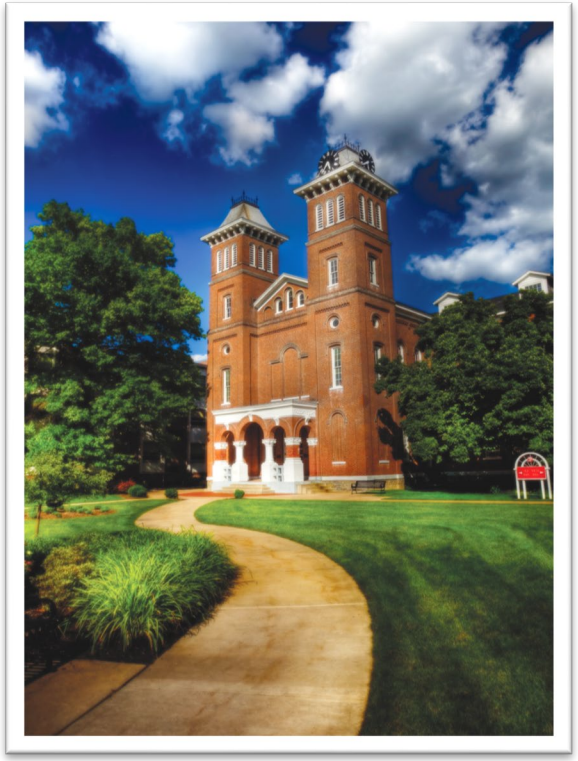

New Ideas

- Winter and Summer Breaks
  - Help students identify work study positions
  - Identify “ambassadors” to have students stay at their homes
- Building a sense of community through gatherings
- Create a cap and gown loan program

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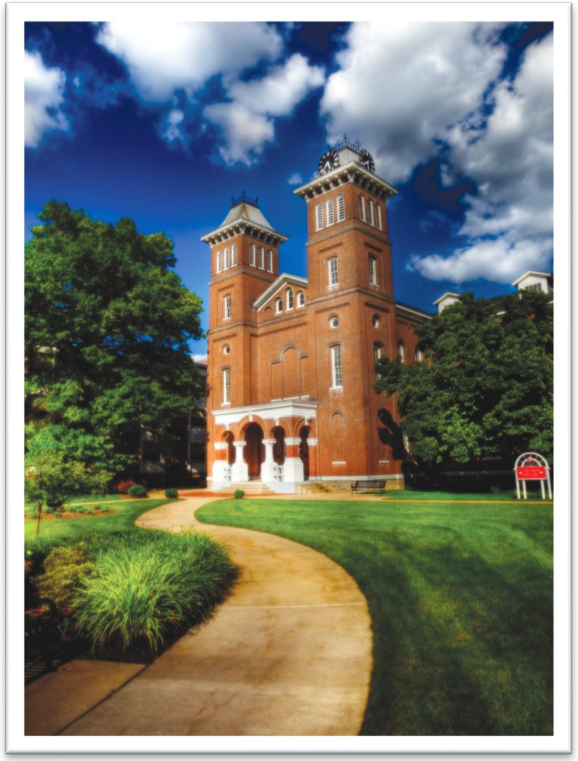

Challenges

- Getting students to participate
- Year-round housing (food, safety)
  - winter or summer work study
- Students who've aged out
- …"we'll just use existing resources."

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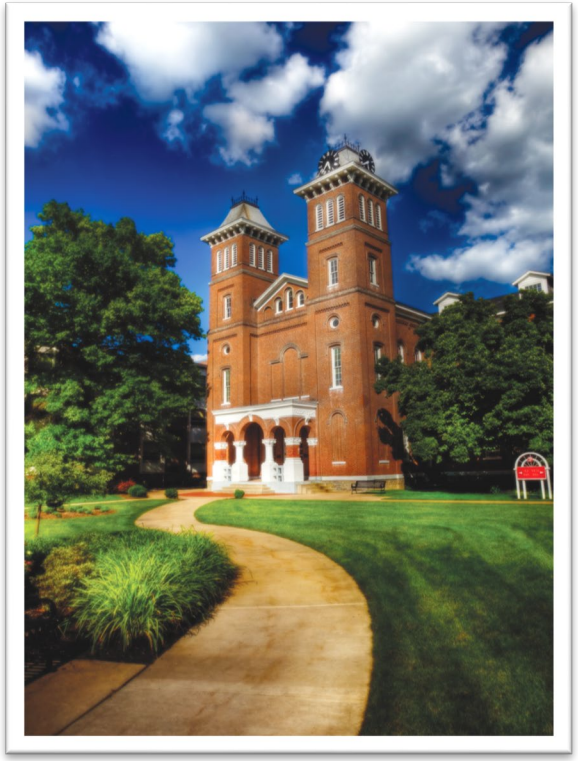

Good Articles

- Day, M., Schmidt, Li., (?). A framework to approach postsecondary educational program design for college students with live experience in foster care.
- Unrau, Y., Dawson, A., Hamilton, R. Bennett, J. (2017). Perceive value of a campus-based college support program by students who aged out of foster care. Children and Youth Services Review,78, 64-73.
- Unrau, Y., Font, S., Rawls, G. (2012). Readiness for college engagement among students who have aged out of foster care. Children and Youth Services Review, 34, 76-83.

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