

### Making a Difference...



Celebrating 16 Years of Growth & Success



**Renaissance Scholars (RS)**, launched in 2002, is a comprehensive program whose purpose is to **empower former foster youth through higher education**. It draws on the Education Opportunity Program (EOP) and the Casey Family Programs' *It's My Life* framework for transitioning youth.

#### Values

We emphasize **Learning**, demonstrate **Resiliency**, encourage and model **Wellness**, act with **Integrity**, exemplify personal and social **Responsibility**, and cherish **Relationships** with others.

#### 2017-18 Renaissance Scholars

- Freshman: 4
- Sophomores: 7
- Juniors: 17
- Seniors: 14

**TOTAL: 42 Scholars**

Colleges		Majors	
Agriculture	2	Agribusiness & Food Industry Mgmt.	1
		Food & Nutrition	1
Business Administration	7	Management & Human Resources	2
		Computer Information Systems	4
		Marketing Management	1
		Liberal Studies	1
Education & Integrative Studies	4	Gender, Ethnicity, & Multicultural Studies	3
		Chemical Engineering	1
Engineering	3	Civil Engineering	1
		Electromechanical Sys Eng. Tech.	1
		Landscape Architecture	1
Environmental Design	3	Art History	1
		Graphic Design	1
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences	15	History	1
		Music	2
		Political Science	3
		Psychology	1
		Sociology	8
		Biotechnology	1
		Kinesiology	1
		Mathematics	1
Physics	1		
Science	4	Hospitality Management	3
		Undeclared	1
Collins College of Hospitality Management	3		
All University	1		

### Learning Objectives

The annual Renaissance Scholars Retreat is intended to provide students with an opportunity to enhance and develop their personal, social and intellectual skills, while helping to build a strong sense of community.

#### Retreat Theme

Theme: “**THRIVE** – Tenacity, Heart, Reflection, Innovation, Vitality, Education”

Student Development & Community Building Event



**Tenacity** – Be willing to endure adversity, and THRIVE.

**Heart** – Put heart and soul into what you do, and THRIVE.

**Reflection**–practice the process of thinking deeply to be better than before, and THRIVE

**Imagination** – Use your creativity to discover alternative solutions, and THRIVE

**Vitality** – Take care of your body to sustain physical endurance, and THRIVE

**Education** – Focus your energy on your goal and what you want, and THRIVE!!!

#### DESIRED OUTCOME:

The goal of this year's *RS Annual Retreat* was to provide an opportunity for scholars to story share, build community, and reflect on their values and how it impacts their personal and professional development.

### Methodology

Evidence of Learning was gathered by collecting the following:

#### Pre/Post Assessment

Students submitted a pre and post assessment after at the beginning and end of the RS Retreat.

#### Anecdotal Data:

Comments were gathered from individual meetings between the students and staff as well as via email.

### Results

Results show that at the conclusion of the retreat there was an increase in student's levels of empowerment, sense of community, understanding of the concept of thriving academically and personally.

- 90% of students agreed that after participation in the Renaissance Scholars retreat, they were able to further develop their sense of belonging in Renaissance Scholars
- 86% of students participated in a personal story sharing activity.
- 81% of students agreed the workshops and activities helped them reflect and articulate ways in which they currently thrive
- 86% of students indicated a better understanding of the importance of their academics and how it affects their future

#### What Students Are Saying About Their Experience

*“I get to know more RS family in a deeper level, and it was really nice just to be them.”*

*“I have learned this before but every once in a while everyone needs a reminder, and the annual retreat is a great one. I learned that people may be going through tough situations all the time. You should treat everyone with as much kindness and respect as you can reasonably can, because you never know what they may be battling.”*

*“The most valuable thing I learned during the RS Retreat is that my RS family has helped make my transition smooth. This is my last retreat I soaked in all the information and reflected on my last year at CPP. My peers have truly inspired me with their stories and have made me feel loved and part of a group.”*

### Implications For Practice

Although we did not have the same number of participants respond to the pre/post assessment, the results show that we did meet our desired outcome for the retreat. The low number of responses occurred because we provided the post assessment a day after the retreat, rather than at the conclusion. Adjustments in time frame need to be done next year to improve results. Additionally, suggestions offered by students to improve future retreats are to provide more social & free time for them to connect, and to mix groups up during every activity to give an opportunity for everyone to interact and help build community amongst the group.

**Strengthen** and continue collaborations with on-campus resources to improve services that supports academic and personal development.

**Develop** more opportunities for students to connect

**Promote** great learning opportunities in higher education for youth exiting the foster care system