



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COMMISSIONER INITIATIVE PAYS OFF FOR LOCAL STUDENTS

Today, Franklin County Commissioners, Children Services (FCCS) and many local private partners presented students, who are aging out of the foster care system and heading off to college in the Fall, with Back-to-School items to assist them with their transition to college life.

The FCCS Emancipation Department provides on-going services to willing youth who have aged out of the foster care system. The program currently has 59 individuals who will be attending college this fall. Students will attend Central State, Columbus State, University of Toledo, Ohio State University-Marion, Owens Community College, Shawnee State University, Ohio University, Bowling Green State University, Marion Tech, University of Akron, Bluffton University, Kaplan, Hocking College, Ohio State School of Cosmetology, DeVry University, Ohio State University-Mansfield, C-Tech and the United States Military.

“These students are beginning a new chapter in their lives,” said Commissioner Paula Brooks. “They have made a positive life decision to work towards their higher education and become our future leaders. They next few years will be a rewarding experience for each of them.”

“College can be a stressful time for any student,” said Commissioner Marilyn Brown. “In their young lives, these students have already overcome many obstacles. These gifts will give them the opportunity to enjoy being a college student without additional anxieties.”

“It is important that these students have an easy transition into the college atmosphere. We want to make sure each student is ready for the classroom and that they have the same opportunities as other students,” said Commissioner John O’Grady.

Students received gift cards from Limited Brand Stores, Easton Town Center, and the Container Store and school supplies from Kroger****. After the ceremony, students were able to use their gift cards to purchase needed items for college.

Franklin County's Children Services Emancipation Department also works to assist students to receive help accessing funds that provide them with items such as computers and sheets and towels for dorm life. Students also receive assistance to access funds that pay partial tuition and staff arrange for host homes for the students coming home for the holidays.