NextUp Program Video Two

[Transcript, Video Runtime: 3 minutes, 8 seconds]

- [Daniel, former foster youth] You know, being in foster care wasn't easy for me, you know. I was separated from my family... And then the foster home was so far away from my family, you know, they weren't able to drive down and see me every weekend, you know. I was lucky to see them once every six months. You know, I got one five-minute phone call every week. I just felt so alone. And then like I said, I was very introverted. I didn't really speak to the other kids in the group home, you know. The counselors would try to get me to talk, but. I would always tell them, you know, “I have nothing to talk about.”

- [Jordyan, former foster youth] We struggle with depression. We shot with anxieties. We struggle, a lot. And it's more than just like, normal societal pressures. It's it's more than just like – because anyone in foster care, has a reason why they're there. And that reason is never pretty. It is never nice. It is never... Although I feel like I'm gonna cry, I'm not gonna cry. I'm not going to. Not gonna. Okay.

- [Daniel] Like I was going to this college for like about three years and I didn't really do any like, programs or anything and this was like, the only one that I did. And everybody just felt so, like, welcoming.

I've grown a lot, I feel like, within these past two semesters. But I also want to be able to inspire other people too.

- [Steve, NextUp/CAFYES Staff] I wasn't always a good student, and I let students know, “Hey, I've made every letter grade that's ever been made, from A to F to incomplete to a W.” And what we find is when we do that and it's human, instead of counselor-to student it's human-to-human, that usually lowers their expectation and anxieties and they tend to open up.

- [Veronica, NextUp/CAFYES Staff] We really like that face-to-face, in-person approach. I feel that having the students see who I am and feel a little more comfortable with me, may assist them and actually wanting to be a part of the program.

- [Steve] It's, uh, it's passion. And my colleagues and I, I mean, we actually care about the students and their success and, they can feel that it's genuine, and they tell us all the time.

- [Jordyan] So essentially what NextUp is – at least what it is for me it is – a community on campus that's there to aid you in, like, your educational goals. But also, the biggest context that, at least for myself and the people I know, is an emotional context of like a family environment, for somewhere safe for us to be.

[On screen: Family]
[Daniel] They made me feel even more connected when I realized, you know, they gave me their cell phone number, you know, like “any questions at all, anytime day or night.” It just made it seem like I had somebody to talk to, and like, you’re didn’t have to worry about any negative repercussions.

[On Screen: Jordyan’s description “former foster youth” is crossed out and replaced with “World Changer.”]

In one of my songs, you know, I say “No matter how hard your times may seem, just know one day that everything is going to be all right. You’re a warrior. And you’ll get through this alive.”

[On Screen: Daniel’s description “former foster youth” is crossed out and replaced with “A Warrior.”]

[On Screen: NextUp]

[On Screen: California Community Colleges]

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End of NextUp Program Video Two