



JOHN BURTON

Advocates for Youth

Supervisors Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn Lead LA County Board of Supervisors to Make College a Reality for County's 20,000 Children and Youth in Foster Care

Board Motion Makes College a Priority and Puts Economic Security Within Reach

On Tuesday, October 2nd, The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will adopt a motion on *Supporting Post-Secondary Education for Foster Youth and Probation Youth*. This motion, championed by Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Janice Hahn, will be the first-ever motion within the nation's largest public child welfare agency to declare October "Foster Youth College Awareness Month."

Nationally, [65%](#) of all jobs will require postsecondary education by 2020. College is the key to ensuring economic security, [leading to increased wage earnings and decreased unemployment](#). However, current and former foster youth fall well behind other groups in completing a post-secondary education. Currently, only [8%](#) of foster youth receive an Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree by the age of 26.

In addition to establishing "Foster Youth College Awareness Month," the board motion will direct the County to participate in strategies to increase financial aid access, such as the *California Foster Youth FAFSA Challenge* led by John Burton Advocates for Youth. This Challenge is a statewide campaign to increase the number of foster youth who are prepared for success as they matriculate from high school into college by ensuring that foster youth are accessing financial aid. [Only about half of foster youth](#) who enrolled in California's community colleges last year received a federal Pell grant even though nearly all would qualify.

This board will adopt the resolution at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration at 500 West Temple Street in downtown Los Angeles in the Board Hearing Room. The agenda has not yet been posted; information will be provided as soon as it is public.

In addition to passage of the resolution, Supervisor Barger will present scrolls to John Burton Advocates for Youth and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in recognition of their efforts to increase post-secondary education in Los Angeles County through the LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative's Foster Youth College Advancement Project (FYCAP). Most recently, these efforts include the expansion of the Cal Grant for foster youth from four to eight years.

Demontae Thompson, a former foster youth and recent master's level graduate from the University of Southern California, will be recognized for his academic excellence and success. Scroll presentations begin at 9:30am followed by the various motions.

Individuals available for interview include:

- *Jessica Petrass, John Burton Advocates for Youth*
 - jpetrass@gmail.com; 949.285.2188
- *Juana Hernandez, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*
 - jhernandez@lachmaber.com; 213.580.7572

- *Demontae Thompson, former foster youth, CSUN and USC alumnus*
 - demontaethompson@gmail.com; 310.341.9833
- *Supervisor Kathryn Barger and Supervisor Janice Hahn will provide a press release with quotes that can be utilized by press*