



## TURNING DREAMS INTO DEGREES

Ed. Course 1: Supporting Foster  
Youth through Early College  
Awareness and Preparation

### **Lessons Learned Activity**

The below student vignette highlights common challenges that foster youth experience as they try to prepare for college. Read through the short description independently and then work with your group to strategize ways to respond to this particular student.

### **Student Vignette #1**

Brandon is 14 years old and about to start the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. He will be starting at a new school and won't know any of the other students. When you ask Brandon about his strengths and interests, he says that he likes to read and play basketball. In middle school, he had to change schools three times and got behind in his classes. He particularly struggled in math and would sometimes ditch this class to avoid feeling embarrassed. When you ask Brandon about his math class he says, "I hate that class, I'm not smart enough." Brandon doesn't know anyone in his family that has gone to college. When you ask him what he wants to be when he grows up, he just shrugs his shoulders and says, "I dunno."

### **Discussion Questions**

- What steps should Brandon take to prepare for college in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade?
- What would you do as the caregiver to help create a college-going culture at home and increase his knowledge about college?
- What resources or supports would you recommend for Brandon?