



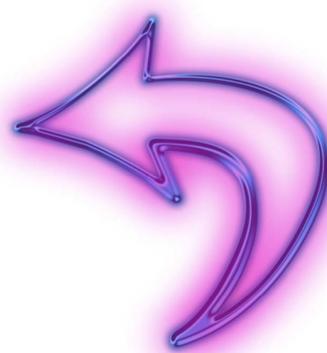
# Program

8:00 Registration

8:30 Welcome

8:45 Presentations

*High School A-G  
Community Colleges  
Vocational Schools  
CSU and UC Schools  
Financial Aid  
Military Service*



10:10 Morning Break

*West Quad - Fruit and donuts!*

10:30 Split Sessions

Seniors/Aftercare – College & ILP

*Seniors & aftercare youth: Meet at Old Admin. Building*

High School Students - ILP

*9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> graders: Return to the auditorium*

12:00 Lunch & Resource Fair

*BBQ in West Quad - Your nametag is your lunch ticket*

*Follow the signs to a Resource Fair extraordinaire!*

12:45 Keynote Speaker: **Tony Hoffman**

*Pro BMX Racer/CEO of the Freewheel Project*

1:45 Talent Show

2:30 Raffle Prizes!

*Must be present to win!*

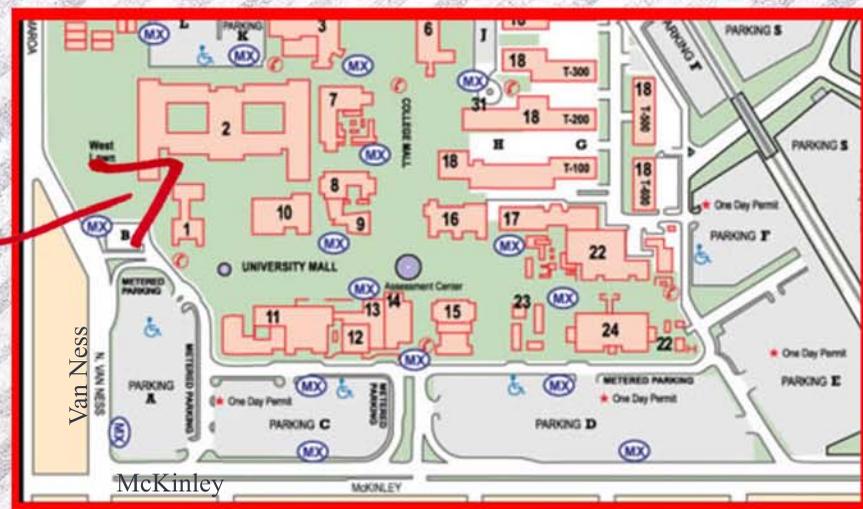


2:45 Closing

**Pre-register for the event by Friday, August 30, 2013**

To be entered into a separate drawing for an additional prize!

Youth must be present to win!



McKinley  
Fresno City College Old Administration Building  
1101 E. University Ave. (Corner of VanNess and McKinley)

*Tony Hoffman*  
*BMX Racer*  
*Featured Speaker*



*Welcome*  
Access to  
Higher Education

# Event Highlights

- \* Fun Prizes Including: Laptops, BMX Bicycles, Gift Cards, and More
- \* Lunch and Snacks
- \* ILP Resources
- \* Education Info
- \* Resource Fair
- \* Talent Show

*You're Invited*

**ILP Kick Off**  
Youth Event!

*Access to Higher Education*

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

**8:30AM-2:30PM**

**Fresno City College Old Administration Building  
1101 E. University Ave. (Corner of VanNess and McKinley)  
RSVP: (559) 244-6485 email: [casa@casafresno.org](mailto:casa@casafresno.org)**



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

For immediate release: **October 7, 2013**

For more information contact:

Nathan Lee

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Fresno  
and Madera Counties

nathanlee@casafresno.org; (559) 244-6485

### **Conference Steered Foster Youth toward Brighter Futures**

A record 228 youth from the Fresno and Madera County foster care and probation systems attended the sixth annual Access to Higher Education conference and Independent Living Program (ILP) Kick Off on October 5. Held on the Fresno City College campus to provide a collegiate experience, the purpose of this free daylong conference is to connect at-risk youth aged 14-20 with the information and resources they need to enroll in college or pursue special career training. Information on available financial aid complemented presentations on high school graduation requirements; community, state and UC college admissions; vocational training programs; and military service. A resource fair allowed the attendees to interact with college students who were formerly in foster care as well as representatives from financial aid, educational, and career training organizations. Food, prize drawings, music, a talent show, and a youth art exhibit kept them engaged throughout the day.

Each year, the youth indicate in exit surveys that this conference helps them plan successful transitions into adulthood. In addition, the speakers inspire them not to let anything stand in the way of bright, successful futures. The best part of the 2013 conference for many attendees was keynote speaker Tony Hoffman, a professional BMX athlete who is the local founder and CEO of the Freewheel Project. The youth were spellbound as Hoffman candidly shared his powerful story of losing early athletic success and multiple contract endorsements to drug addiction and a two-year prison sentence for armed robbery. He came out of prison committed to maintaining sobriety, restarting his professional BMX career, and using the lessons of his life to help young people avoid life-changing mistakes. Hoffman encouraged the conference attendees to make the right choices, follow the right people, and never give up on their dreams.

The organizations that work with foster and probation youth began collaborating in 2008 by adding the Access to Higher Education conference to the Fresno County Department of Social Services' annual ILP kick off. They wanted to reduce the high rates of homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and crime for young adults moving from the foster care and/or probation systems into independence. Last year, the conference organizers invited youth and organizations from Madera County to participate. The conference is now a collaboration between Court Appointed Special Advocates of Fresno and Madera Counties; State Center Community College District and the Fresno City, Madera Center, Reedley, and Willow International campuses; the Fresno County Office of Education; the Probation and Social Services Departments in Fresno and Madera Counties; the Fresno Superior Court; as well as three Fresno State divisions: the Specialized Foster Parent Training program, Central California Training Academy, and Social Welfare Evaluation, Research and Training Center.

Grants from the California Department of Education and the Judicial Council of California supplemented time and other donations from a variety of individuals and organizations such as master of ceremonies Rod Blair and multi-media consultant Kevin Boam of AT&T Mobility. Another highlight of this year's conference were drawings for three bicycle prize packages sponsored by Fresno Schwinn.

###

## A2HE 2013 Prizes

Description	Quantity	Donor/Source
\$25.00 Rite Aid gift cards	8	Fresno Department of Social Services (DSS)
Lap tops with cases	3	Fresno DSS
gift basket (male)	1	Fresno DSS
Gift basket (female)	1	Fresno DSS
Duffle bag (male)	1	Fresno DSS
Duffle bag (female)	1	Fresno DSS
t-shirt with Misc. \$5 gift card	20	Fresno Superior Court
Backpack filled with school supplies & pizza coupons & misc goodies	10	Fresno Superior Court/CASA
\$15.00 Target Gift Cards	10	Fresno Probation
\$100.00 gift certificate for a bike/Fresno Schwinn	3	Grant funds
\$25.00 WalMart Gift cards	10	Fresno Child Advocates

NOVEMBER 10, 2009  
10:00 AM  
10:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
11:30 AM  
12:00 NOON  
12:45 PM  
1:45 PM  
2:30 PM  
2:45 PM

## ***Program Schedule***

- 8:00**                    ***Registration begins***
- 8:30**                    ***Welcome***
- 8:45**                    ***Presentations***
- High School A-G  
                              Community Colleges  
                              Vocational Schools  
                              CSU and UC Schools  
                              Financial Aid  
                              Military Service
- 10:10**                   ***Morning Break***  
Fruit and donuts served in West Quad area
- 10:30**                   ***Seniors/Aftercare – College & ILP***
- All seniors and aftercare youth will meet in front of  
                              the Old Administration Building.
- High School Students - ILP***
- Students who are in 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> grade  
                              return to the Auditorium
- 12:00 noon**           ***Lunch & Resource Fair***
- Your name tag is your lunch ticket.  
                              Enjoy a BBQ in the West Quad area.
- Follow the signs to a Resource Fair extraordinaire!
- 12:45**                   ***Keynote Speaker – Tony Hoffman***
- “Make the right choices, follow the right  
                              people and most importantly, NEVER  
                              give up on your dreams”.
- 1:45**                    ***Talent Show***
- 2:30**                    ***Raffle Prizes! Must be present to win!***
- 2:45**                    ***Closing***

**Fun Prizes**



**Save the Date**  
**Access to  
Higher Education**

**ILP Kick Off**  
Youth Event!

WHY GO:

MONEY FOR COLLEGE, CAREER EDUCATION, HIGH SCHOOL/GED

PLUS:

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SNACKS, AND ENTERTAINMENT

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

**8:30AM-2:30PM**

**RSVP: (559) 244-6485 email: [casa@casafresno.org](mailto:casa@casafresno.org)**  
Fresno City College - Old Administration Building

**Pre-register for this free event by Friday, August 30, 2013**

To be entered into a separate drawing for an additional prize!

Youth must be present to win!

Stay Tuned For Additional Information and Invitation

# WHAT I THINK

- Overall, I think this event was:
- Excellent
  - Good
  - Alright
  - Bad

Because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- BEFORE this event, I was planning to (mark only one):
- Quit high school and get a job.
  - Finish high school and get a job.
  - Finish high school and go to college or vocational training.
  - Finish high school and go into the military.
  - Didn't know.
- NOW, I plan to (mark only one):
- Quit high school and get a job.
  - Finish high school and get a job.
  - Finish high school and go to college or vocational training.
  - Finish high school and go into the military.
  - Don't know.

- Tony Hoffman's presentation was:
- Totally awesome!
  - Really good
  - Alright
  - A waste of time

- I thought the resource fair was:
- Outstanding
  - Pretty good
  - Okay
  - A waste of time
- Because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

- The best workshop of the day was:
- Topic 1: High School A-G
  - Topic 2: Community College
  - Topic 3: Vocational and Licensing Programs
  - Topic 4: CSU/UC University Systems
  - Topic 5: Financial Aid
  - Topic 6: Military Service
- Because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If I could change one thing about today's event, it would be: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Next year's event would be better if: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

I'm in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade.