
**STOCKTON UNIVERSITY
ANNUAL REPORT FOR
FY23 COMPASS FUND PROJECT**

PROJECT LEADER(S):	Alicia Jenkins	Advisors: Dr. Ana Edmondson & Mr. Brian Jackson
PROJECT TITLE:	First to Fly Leadership Symposium	
DATE:	Saturday, June 24 th 2023	

- *The boxes below expand as needed to accommodate your notes. You may also include/submit appendices or attachments, if needed.*
- *Email a copy of this completed form to the Compass Fund Review Board: CompassFund@stockton.edu.*
- ***This form must be completed and submitted to be considered for a second year of funding, if applicable, or any future Compass Fund support.***

Please provide a summary of the project and your experience.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience orchestrating the First to Fly Leadership Symposium. As a student, I was able to get exposure writing a proposal, securing sponsorships and partnerships with several departments and offices, and networking with various Superintendents, Principals, Community Organizations, etc. The valuable professional and personal skills that I've acquired have given me an in-depth perspective of higher education and how different departments and offices truly support students during their academic journey. Most importantly, I was able to establish a deeper appreciation for opportunities such as the Compass Fund that allows the Stockton Community to execute a program, event, or initiative that directly impacts campus life, neighboring communities, etc.

The First to Fly Leadership symposium was an amazing experience that exposed high school students and their families to the various resources that Stockton University provides to first-generation college students. Several New Jersey High Schools (30-35) as well as recreational student programs (Atlantic City Boys and Girls Club, Pleasantville and Egg Harbor Township Recreation Centers) were invited to attend the event. Recruitment strategies and promotional efforts included postcard mailings, interactions via email, phone calls, social media posts, and in-person advertisements during Pleasantville and Absegami High School Graduations, Future Teachers of Color Conference, and the Educational Opportunity Fund Orientation.

The Inaugural First to Fly Leadership Symposium hosted more than 40 students as well as their families on June 24th 2023. The Office of Admissions team, advised by Ms. Heather Medina, Director of Admissions, greeted families and distributed pamphlets that included vital information regarding the admissions and enrollment process at Stockton University. After materials were distributed, attendees enjoyed a continental breakfast and participated in a survey administered by Stockton students and staff volunteers. The survey allowed staff and student volunteers the opportunity to ask attendees "What would draw them to attend Stockton University?" Guest responses were recorded to be addressed during the student and family panels that would provide further insight on how Stockton University already provides the aspects (DEI initiatives, Leadership Opportunities, Scholarships, etc) that would draw prospective students to enroll. After breakfast and conversational interactions, guests participated

in a campus tour led by the Admissions Ambassadors. Seeing facilities such as the newly constructed Multicultural Center, Women's Gender and Sexuality Center, and virtual prototype of the newly constructed Atlantic City Residence Hall and Phase II of the sports center, showed attendees the planned growth and expansion that is implemented to promote inclusive student success, and a sense of belonging.

After guests returned from the campus tours, they were officially welcomed by the host Alicia Jenkins and Project Advisor, Brian Jackson, Chief Operating Officer of the Atlantic City Campus. The welcome further explained the overall purpose and mission of the event: to further showcase Stockton's commitment to supporting first-generation college students throughout their academic journey. The program then transitioned into the keynote speaker, Dr. Reggie Wright Jr's session "Allergic to Average." Dr. Wright initially spoke about his upbringing and being raised by his grandparents due to his parents battling addiction(s). Although he endured different hardships, he still obtained his Doctoral Degree and travels to various campuses to motivate students to adopt his motto of going above and beyond to master your craft and attend college.

After the keynote speaker's session, faculty, staff, alumni, and Stockton students participated in the "I Resonate" breakout sessions where they shared their stories about how they persevered through different challenges in life and still obtained a college degree, thrived as students, higher educational professionals, etc. The purpose of these powerful sessions was to show attendees that people that work in positions of power in Higher Education as well as current Stockton students have endured similar challenges that high school attendees and their families are currently facing in life (Mental Health issues, Financial Hardships, Family issues). The power of professionals and Stockton students sharing their stories allowed attendees to develop a sense of relatability to the facilitators as well as hope in their ability to achieve a college degree. Some of the session's topics included "Overcoming Family Dilemmas and Mental Health Struggles", "My School Failure was not Final", and "School Wasn't an Option but Look At Me Now." After the sessions, guests engaged in an interactive lunch in the food court. In the concluding fifteen minutes of lunch, attendees transitioned into the Multicultural Center and participated in an airplane activity. Attendees made paper airplanes and flew them to symbolize a new beginning of deciding to leave what's comfortable and embarking on a new journey and adapting a new mindset to achieve a college degree.

Concluding the airplane activity, students and families participated in separate "We Are Stockton student and family panel sessions." The "We Are Stockton Student Panel" allowed a group of 10 Stockton student leaders and alumni to share with high school attendees their experiences on how they navigated college as first-generation college students. The "We Are Stockton Family Panel" allowed a group of seven Stockton Staff members to share with high school students' families, how their area at Stockton (Residential Life, Admissions, Financial Aid, Wise Ospreys, Retention Initiatives, and Academic Advising) specifically supports students and families throughout their college journey.

To conclude the event, all attendees completed an assessment that centered around the mission, purpose, and learning objectives of the First to Fly Leadership Symposium. The questions allowed attendees to express what aspects of the event (Tour, We Are Stockton Student and Family Sessions, I Resonate Breakout Sessions) allowed them to feel a sense of belonging at Stockton University. Also, the questions allowed attendees to express their interest in applying to Stockton after seeing the wonderful support, growth, and development opportunities available. After attendees completed the assessment, the host Alicia Jenkins thanked everyone for participating in the First to Fly Leadership Symposium. She further explained that the event could not have been a success without the sponsorship from the Compass fund, The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, The Office of Admissions, and The Office of Student Transitions programs. Also, Alicia Jenkins recognized and thanked all the supporting

staff members, students, vendors, and community affiliates that supported the event. Susan Allen, URM photographer took a final group snapshot of attendees and then the event was dismissed.

Please describe the results of your project and compare them to your original expectations. Elaborate on how well your objectives were met and how they might have changed. Note any particular obstacles that may have prevented your achieving full satisfaction on desired outcomes.

The First to Fly Leadership Symposium results met the intended goal of igniting hope for attendees whether prospective traditional or non-traditional students to attend Stockton University. The event allowed attendees to see that attending Stockton University would allow them to develop and thrive personally, professionally, and academically. Also, they were able to see the different resources that would help them excel as first-generation college students.

In addition, some aspects of the event changed that altered the objectives. For instance, the total number of student attendees was lower than expected due to the underestimated amount of time necessary to promote an event of this magnitude. Contacting school administrators in early January to make them aware of the event or even provide transportation to the event would have assisted in getting greater student and family attendance. Also, the responsiveness of Superintendents and Principals was more productive via phone call rather than the original mode of communication through email. This adjustment in communication allowed the advertisement of the event to be shared with more students and family members. Also, during the event, some sessions should have been elongated to 45 minutes to an hour. For instance, attendees enjoyed and raved about how they loved the Campus tour and the We Are Stockton Student and Family Panels. Providing a longer session would have allowed attendees to ask more questions, see more aspects of the campus, and have more time to network with staff and faculty members. My biggest takeaway that could have altered different aspects of the event was to have the First to Fly Leadership Symposium occur during the academic school year. The change in date could have allowed school districts time to coordinate transportation. Also, more Stockton students, staff, and faculty members could have participated being that they would be on campus during the academic school year. Despite any unexpected changes to the event, the attendees still received a wonderful experience and left empowered and encouraged to obtain a college degree at Stockton University.

Please explain and provide any University Relations & Marketing (URM) coverage of your project (social media posts, press releases, photos, videos, etc.) You may include these items as attachments or paste them at the bottom of this document.

Social Media Takeover: [First to Fly Story Icon on Stockton's Instagram](#)

New Article: [First to Fly Leadership Symposium News Article](#)

Photos: [First to Fly photo Album](#)

Website: [First to Fly \(google.com\)](#)

Video of Keynote Session and Recap video: Still being edited by URM will send ASAP

Please list any follow-up actions (publications, presentation venues, etc.)

N/A

Are you recommending the continuation of this project? If so:

- What are the next action steps you foresee or recommend?
- What are the expected budget requirements going forward?
- Please identify the program, department, or division you should be working with to secure continuation of funding for your project.

[Note: continuation proposals must be approved and incorporated into the appropriate budget process. This report will not constitute a request for permanent funding.]

N/A

FINANCES: Based on your proposal, please outline below how the award has been spent.

	Amount	Notes/Comments
Beginning Budget Balance as of:	\$ 21,000	
Salary Expenditures		
• TES salaries (613340)	\$	
• Student worker (613345)	\$	
• Grad student worker (613350)	\$	
Total Salary Expenditures	\$ 0	
Non-Salary Expenditures <i>(supplies, travel, etc.)</i>		
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Save the Date Flyers	\$ 140.00	Paid for by The Office of Student Transition Programs
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Postcards	\$ 175.44	Paid for by The Office of Student Transition Programs
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium T-Shirts	\$ 3517.00	Paid for by The Office of The Vice President of Student Affairs
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Food (Breakfast and Lunch)	\$ 7,697.25	Paid for by Compass Fund
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Amazon Supplies	\$ 341.85	Paid for by Compass Fund
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Balloon Arch	\$ 3,950	Partial amount paid for by The Office of Student Transition Programs
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium DJ Services (Mekhi Rivers)	\$ 1,000	Paid for by Compass Fund
• First to Fly Leadership Symposium Speaker (Dr. Reggie Wright)	\$ 1,800	Paid for by Compass Fund
• Giveaways	\$ 500.00	Paid for by The First Ospreys Club
Total Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 19,121.54	
Total Salary + Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ 19,121.54	
Ending Budget Balance as of:	\$ 19,121.54	
<i>If your project was approved for multiple fiscal years, please itemize future expenditures.</i>		
IMPORTANT: Unused funds revert to the general Compass Fund at the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). Compass funds DO NOT rollover to the next FY.		
Item Description	Expected Amount	Expected Timing for Payment
Total		