



**Dear Colleague,**



I am pleased to announce the release of two reports focused on the promising initial implementation and results of the Academy, F·E·G·S's program serving youth aging out of foster care.



The Academy was created in 2007 with a generous grant from the Heckscher Foundation to improve outcomes for youth aging out of foster care in New York City. These young people confront significant economic, educational, social and other barriers and challenges to leading successful lives. The Academy is operated by **F·E·G·S Health and Human Services System** in cooperation with the **New York City Administration for Children's**

**Services** (ACS) and multiple foster care agencies across the city. The program offers a wide variety of services designed to help young people in foster care reach their educational goals, prepare for and enter the world of work and enhance their personal growth and development.

- The **Vera Institute of Justice** released a report today, *The Academy: A Program for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care*, that presents the findings from a process evaluation focused on the program's initial implementation in 2007 and 2008. Vera researchers found that the Academy has helped to fill a gap in the city's youth and young adult programming, and found strong support for the program among professionals in the field. **Click [HERE](#) to read the report.**
- **F·E·G·S** released a report today, *The Academy: A Promising New Initiative—Program Results and Next Steps*, documenting the program's results for almost 400 youth served to date. This report documents the program's successes and challenges in engaging a hard-to-reach population and helping many youth increase their academic levels, obtain a GED, participate in work internships and obtain jobs. **Click [HERE](#) to read the report.**

There are currently almost 2,300 youth, ages 16 and older, in the New York City foster care system who are slated to age out of the system without a family. Our success with these young people can mean the difference between a productive and fulfilling life and a life in poverty, on the streets or in jail. This program has the potential to become a national model.

Moving forward, additional resources are needed to maintain the Academy and take it to scale—so that it can be a resource for all youth who can benefit from it.

To learn more about the Academy, please visit **[www.fegs.org/academy](http://www.fegs.org/academy)**.

Sincerely,

**Julie Farber**

Vice President, Education and Youth Services  
F·E·G·S Health and Services System



**Helping Young People  
Aging Out of Foster Care  
Prepare for Their Futures**



F·E·G·S's Academy brings a critical expertise in education and career readiness services, along with an understanding of what it takes to help these young people succeed. As ACS and the foster care agencies continue to work to achieve permanent families for youth in foster care, these services are an essential component of supporting our young people.

**John Mattingly**

Commissioner  
New York City Administration  
for Children's Services



**F·E·G·S thanks the funders who have  
generously supported the Academy**

- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Heckscher Foundation for Children
- JPMorgan Chase Foundation
- Joseph Leroy and Ann C. Warner Fund
- New York City Department of Youth and Community Development
- New York State Department of Labor
- New Yorkers for Children
- Robin Hood Foundation