

# Bridging Success

Arizona State University's (ASU) Bridging Success program, launched in 2015, is a campus-based support program for students with a background in foster care, also known as Foster Care Alumni (FCA). The program is housed within ASU's School of Social Work, which is part of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. The program serves youth in foster care who are considering postsecondary education and all ASU students who self-identify with a foster care background.

The creation of ASU's Bridging Success program was made possible only due to the generous support of the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust.

**Since 2015, Bridging Success has served 7 cohorts and more than 500 students.**

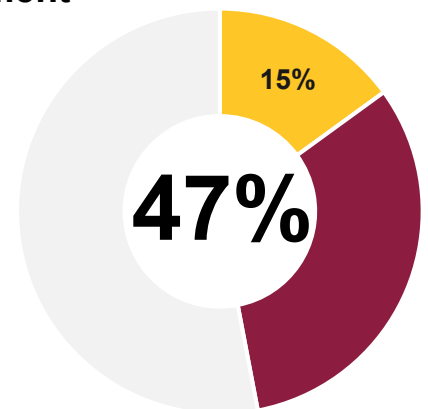
“I loved meeting friends who had a similar background and could understand where I came from, and why certain things were hard for me. I met my best friend through this project. I also loved that I had someone to go to when I had issues. ASU is such a big place, and [as] a foster youth, many things were different than traditional students.”

— Bridging Success Student

## Admissions Achievement

■ Admissions Goal

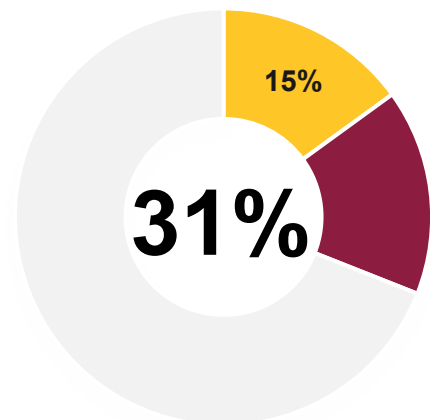
Bridging Success has **surpassed** its initial goal of achieving a 15% increase in admissions since it launched in 2015.



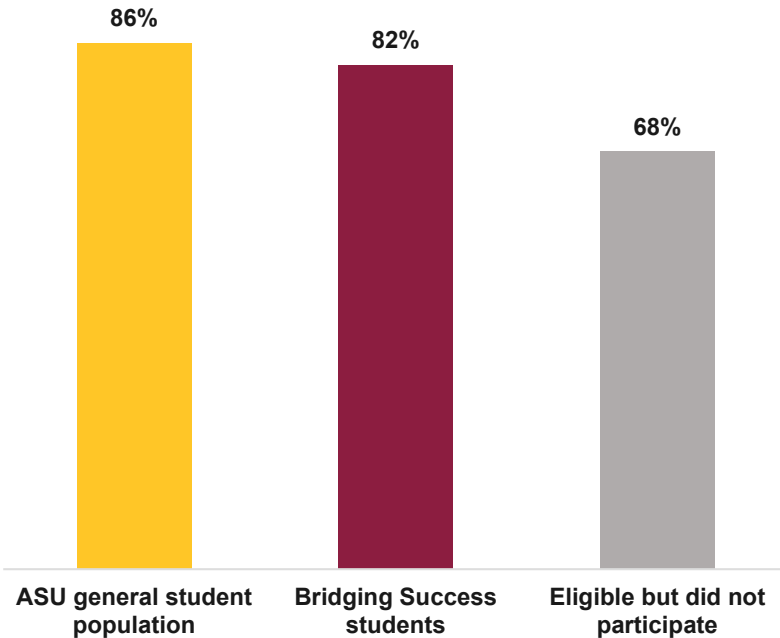
## Enrollment Achievement

■ Enrollment Goal

Bridging Success has **surpassed** its goal of achieving a 15% increase in enrollment since it launched in 2015.

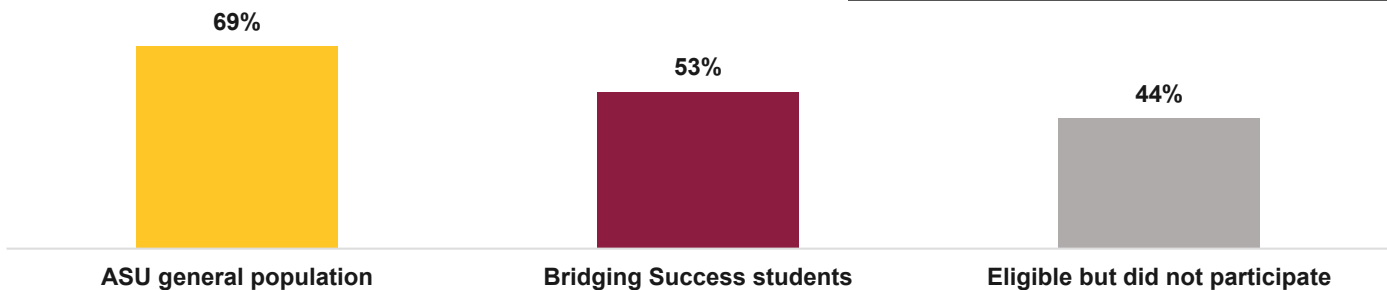


## Student Retention After One Year



The **one-year retention rate** for Bridging Success students was **significantly higher** than for students who were eligible but did not participate in the program.

## Graduated Within Six Years



**Graduation rates** of Foster Care Alumni students in the Bridging Success program are **much higher** than the national average of 31% (as reported by the Government Accountability Office) and surpassed those who did not participate in the program.\*

Based on evaluation of the data for the first four cohorts (2015-2018), the program is having a positive impact on the lives and educational experiences of Foster Care Alumni. Important progress is being made to exceed recruitment goals, retain Foster Care Alumni students in higher education and ultimately help them graduate at rates higher than national averages.

“Throughout my undergraduate and graduate career, I went to [a particular staff member] for everything — when I had questions about school or was dealing with something in my personal life. She was always a great listener and understood that my personal life impacted my academic life. If I was having a financial aid issue, she would connect me with that office, or if I was dealing with a situation in class, she would help me brainstorm how to talk to my professor or how to handle the situation. She always checked in on me.”

— Bridging Success Student

Data for all charts are for the 2015-2018 student cohorts and were obtained from the Arizona State University Office of Institutional Analysis. Only students who were Arizona residents were considered.

\*U.S. Government Accountability Office. (2016). Higher education: Actions needed to improve access to federal financial assistance for homeless and foster youth. [www.gao.gov/assets/680/677325.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/677325.pdf).