Offering dedicated opportunities throughout the academic year for cultural and learning experiences for incoming KSU students who have experienced homelessness and/or the foster care system.
Why Join ASCEND?

**Services include:**

- **Academic and Professional Development Workshop Series:** Providing students with strategies on improving their study and time management skills, economic mobility, and engagement with the KSU campus and peers.

- **Cultural and Education Abroad Enrichment Activities:** Providing exposure to new cultural experiences is key to broaden students' world-view. As available, stipends will be awarded to students to support their Education Abroad travels.

- **Near Peer Mentoring:** Over the first year, ASCEND's current students or recent graduates will be available to offer firsthand insight and advice to newly enrolled ASCEND scholars.

- **Case Management:** Together, the student and case manager will develop an individualized plan intended to empower the student to work towards their daily living needs.
ASCEND BRIDGE WEEK

To qualify for the ASCEND program, a person must be a KSU students pursuing their first bachelor's degree and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Unaccompanied Homeless Youth status based upon the McKinney-Vento Act
- Verified as a Runaway Homeless Youth, defined as a youth “who is not more than 21 years of age...for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative and who have no other safe alternative living arrangement.”
- At any time since turning age 13, both parents deceased, in foster care, or a dependent or ward of the court.

1 https://schoolhouseconnection.org/mckinney-vento-act/
3 https://studentaid.gov/2122/help/orphan-foster-ward-court

OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPECTATIONS

- KSU Campus Awareness, Resource, and Empowerment Services (KSU CARES) provides a comprehensive program of orientation, financial preparedness, and academic support designed to ease the transition from high school to college
- One-on-one CARE Management with KSU CARES, including progress monitoring, coaching, advocacy, referrals, and/or financial assistance
- Academic and professional development programming
- Opportunities to attend workshops, cultural events, and education abroad throughout the year

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Based on availability, ASCEND students live together as a community so they can build stronger, hopefully life-long, relationships with students with similar life experiences.

Benefits include:
- KSU Housing’s Reservation Fee covered
- In-house pantry
- Service opportunities
- Private study room & group space
- Laundry room
- Rental Assistance
- Professional Development
- Activities and Retreats
Get your Finances Ready

COMPLETE YOUR FAFSA
Need assistance? Find your Financial Aid Counselor here.

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
KSU Scholarships (Application period is November - March)
External Scholarships
Follow us on Social Media for tips @KSU_CARES

Register for Orientation
Visit the KSU Orientation Website. There is a $40.00 registration fee.
Need help with paying for Orientation? Email careservices@kennesaw.edu

Register for ASCEND Bridge Week
Click here to apply.

Apply for KSU Housing

APPLY FOR GENERAL HOUSING
For on campus housing, you will need to apply for KSU Housing.
If you DO NOT have a guarantor, email KSU CARES at careservices@kennesaw.edu before you apply. There is a $375.00 Reservation Fee

INTERESTED IN THE ASCEND LLV?
Click here to apply. For those accepted into the LLV, KSU CARES will cover the $375 Reservation Fee.

Apply for Campus Jobs
If you are interested in working on campus, check out these resources:
Complete the Federal Work Study application at https://financialaid.kennesaw.edu/types-of-aid/fws-application.php
Search for available Campus Jobs at https://kennesaw.joinhandshake.com/login/
CONNECT WITH KSU CARES

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