

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Cynthia Flash

425-603-9520

cynthia@flashmediaservices.com



In the face of COVID-19 challenges, Edge Foundation bolsters the resiliency and success of foster and homeless youth

PALM SPRINGS, CALIF. (Aug. 7, 2020): As schools and students throughout the United States struggle to succeed with online learning during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the [Edge Foundation](#) has enabled foster and homeless youth in the Palm Springs Unified School District to grow and thrive through engagement in a unique personal coaching model.

Following the Edge Foundation’s model to address executive function issues and social-emotional aspects of learning and life, teachers and other staff members at 19 Palm Springs Unified School District schools coached 72 students during the 2018-19 school year in one-to-one weekly 20- to 25-minute sessions. Compared to the previous school year, 71% of students who received coaching during the 2018-19 school year improved their attendance, 36% improved their grades, and the students that received coaching experienced about a 9% decrease in behavior issues from the previous year.

Even when schools closed in March due to COVID-19, most Edge coaches continued to remain in contact with their assigned students, making progress with them.

“Many of the students who benefit from Edge coaching have a range of executive function challenges derived from ADHD, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or the new anxiety of online learning in the COVID-19 education environment,” said Neil Peterson, founder of the Edge Foundation. “This is especially true for students who are homeless or in foster care. The common thread for these students is that these challenges can impede their ability to reach their full potential. We train school staff and others who work with youth whose executive function challenges inhibit their academic progress and social and emotional learning.”

The research and evidenced-based Edge Foundation Coaching Model has proven that providing personalized weekly coaching sessions to struggling students with executive function challenges helps them succeed not only in school, but also in the social-emotional aspects of a successful life.

“We know coaching builds confidence. Confidence comes from competence,” said Brad Ward, Edge Foundation fidelity manager. “As a result of our ongoing work with the students, we have seen a dramatic shift in their level of enthusiasm, level of engagement with coaches and

engagement in the classroom. When the coaches see their potential, the students start to believe it themselves.”

The district started the 2020-2021 school year on Aug. 5 with remote learning.

“The majority of the students that have received the Edge coaching have built strong connections to their coaches and trust them, which is so important in the lives of foster and homeless youth,” said Deanna Bretado—Chavez, Palm Spring Unified School District Community Liaison, who works with the district’s foster and homeless students. “These connections have been an important reason for our students to remain engaged and motivated with learning, when in the past they were not.”

A successful businessman, Peterson created Edge Foundation after recognizing that he and his own children benefited from executive style, one-to-one coaching. Founded in 2005, Edge Foundation has trained educators in its Edge Model for coaching at more than 90 schools and organizations in Washington State, Oregon, California, New York, Washington, D.C., Pennsylvania and Mississippi. Schools and individual teachers are required to produce results, close performance gaps, boost achievement and reduce drop-out rates.

As a result of recommendations for social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edge Foundation recently moved its in-person coach training sessions for educators to virtual, online training. Student coaching sessions have moved online as well.

Additional schools, organizations or individuals that work with students interested in joining the EDGE Foundation’s online training should contact Denise von Pressentin at 206-632-9497 (D), 206-390-0251 (M), 888-718-8886 or dvonpressentin@edgefoundation.org.

About the EDGE Foundation: The Edge Foundation aims to give each student a coach so they can complete their education, realize their full potential and pursue their passion. The foundation focuses on children, teens and young adults at risk of dropping out of school - non-traditional learners with executive function challenges that can come from ADHD and Adverse Childhood Experiences. Learn more at www.edgefoundation.org.

##