



FSM Student Advisory Board Collective Poem

4th Annual FSM Statewide Summit—May 22nd, 2015

I wish, I wish, I AM

I wish professionals knew...That I am not defined by my experience.

I wish someone had told me earlier...That people would be there for me, wherever I go.

I am making my mark by...Being involved in as many things as I can.

I wish professionals knew...That we, foster children, are lovable, beautiful, deserving and capable of success.

I wish someone had told me earlier...That people will abandon you, give up on you, shun you, and leave you, but you'll make it—you will be okay, and despite it all, you can succeed.

I am making my mark by...Being for others what I needed as a child and working against the disastrous effects of abuse on children on a micro and macro level.

I wish professionals knew...That I'm smarter than I look.

I wish someone had told me earlier...That it takes years to build a relationship and seconds to ruin it.

I am making my mark by...Pursuing my education and passion for helping others.

I wish professionals knew...How difficult it is as a young person to figure out where to start picking up the pieces of your life while trying to successfully transition into adulthood and attending college. It can be a bit overwhelming and support and encouragement goes a long way.

I wish someone had told me earlier...That I had a choice on being adopted or not and I had the choice and resources to attend any college I wanted to.

I am making my mark by...Being an example to all my fellow young people, by showing them that no matter what life throws at you, you can be successful, and you can break your family cycle. Mostly importantly, I am making my mark by being a leader and advocate for all young people.

I wish professionals knew...That we are not always comfortable with being asked about our experience in foster care because we don't want to be seen as a charity case.

I wish someone had told me earlier...That it's going to get tough, but you are good enough.

I am making my mark by...Giving back to my community.

