



## University of California Campus Foster Youth Programs

### BERKELEY

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**Program Name:** Cal Independent Scholars Network (CISN)

**Year the program was established:** 2005

**Number of students served:** Currently serving 42

**Contact person for additional information:** Deborah Lowe Martinez, J.D.,  
email: [dlowemartinez@berkeley.edu](mailto:dlowemartinez@berkeley.edu), phone: (510) 642-6151

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

The Cal Independent Scholars Network (CISN) of the University of California, Berkeley, provides support to incoming freshman, transfer and continuing students who have recently emancipated from foster care or are orphaned and certified independent by the Financial Aid Office. Through individual mentoring and referral to campus resources, CISN assists students in their transition to Cal. CISN monitors students' academic progress and personal development, and promotes the realization of students' educational and career goals.

CISN collaborates with the Financial Aid Office, which identifies students for this program through admissions and self-reported financial aid data. After determining eligibility, we invite students to participate in the CISN program.

The Cal Independent Scholars Network is based in the Transfer, Re-entry & Student Parent Center. Deborah Lowe Martinez, program coordinator, is a child welfare attorney, Cal alumna and Cal parent. The program coordinator position was made possible through a generous gift from Cal parents Gary and Allison Beckman. Ms. Martinez works closely with students and their mentors to ensure students receive guidance and referral to campus resources throughout their studies at Cal.

The CISN student experience is further enhanced by monthly community-building workshops and events. In addition, CISN hosts a welcome event at the beginning of fall semester and an end-of-the-year celebration in May. For the past three years, Chancellor and Mrs. Birgeneau have hosted a holiday reception at University House, their private residence, for the CISN students.

CISN assists students in the following areas:

- Monthly academic and enrichment workshops
- Community-building social events
- Assistance with computer needs or problems
- Finals packages each semester
- Residence hall starter kits
- Academic supplies starter kits
- Referrals to campus resource liaisons for academic advising and support, tutoring, housing issues, financial aid issues, scholarship opportunities, career counseling and confidential personal matters

CISN is financially supported through private grants, donations and endowments funded by Chancellor Robert Birgeneau and alumni Coleman Fung and Steve & Beth Bangert.

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

Cal Independent Scholars Network:

[trsp.berkeley.edu/cisn.htm](http://trsp.berkeley.edu/cisn.htm)

News Articles:

[calparents.berkeley.edu/letterhome/2007/winter/studentprograms.html](http://calparents.berkeley.edu/letterhome/2007/winter/studentprograms.html)

promise.berkeley.edu/lib/pdf/2007\_fall\_promise.pdf  
www.ucop.edu/campuslife/pdf/Campus\_Life\_Newsletter\_V2\_1.pdf  
calparents.berkeley.edu/letterhome/2008/fall/accessexcel.shtml

## DAVIS

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**Program Name:** Guardian Scholars

**Year the program was established:** 2007 (spring)

**Number of students served:** Approximately 40 annually

**Contact person for additional information:** Valeri Garcia, email: [vgarcia@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vgarcia@ucdavis.edu), phone: (530) 752-1211

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

Guardian Scholars is a comprehensive program committed to providing services and support for former foster youth to maximize educational opportunities. Professional staff and peer advisers, in partnership with a variety of on-campus units and external agencies, work to best meet their academic and personal needs.

**Program Goals:**

- To provide a one-stop resource for campus services and support
- To provide a dedicated coaching team of staff and faculty committed to building relationships while providing guidance and support
- To provide academic assistance that supports educational progress and that leads to successful careers and/or postgraduate degrees
- To provide advocacy and support for financial, housing and personal matters to improve the overall college experience
- To provide social support and leadership opportunities that encourage participation in University and community life and that promote personal growth
- To provide postgraduate and career development skills and support

**Program Services:**

- A caring and supportive community
- Campus orientation for new students
- Academic advising
- Personal and life skills training and support
- Navigation of campus resources
- Assistance with financial and housing matters
- Career counseling and post-graduation preparation
- Mentoring
- Personal counseling
- Referral network for other campus and off-campus services
- Social support
- Leadership opportunities

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

UCD Guardian Scholars:

[guardianscholars.ucdavis.edu/](http://guardianscholars.ucdavis.edu/)

## IRVINE

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**Program Name:** Orangewood Guardian Scholars Program

**Year the program was established:** 2001

**Number of students served:** Approximately 20 annually

**Contact person for additional information:** Joe Maestas, email: [jamaesta@uci.edu](mailto:jamaesta@uci.edu), phone: (949) 824-7162

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

Joe Maestas, director of the TRIO Programs in the Division of Undergraduate Education Student Academic Advancement Services at UC Irvine, works closely with Orangewood Children's Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports foster youth in the college application process. Once students are accepted to UCI, Orangewood transfers the students to Mr. Maestas' office for guidance, mentoring and support. Mr. Maestas meets one-on-one with these students on a monthly basis throughout their four years of college. There is an annual reception hosted in their honor with members of the campus leadership, Orangewood Foundation, faculty and staff.

The TRIO office is financially supported through a number of grants and University funds. Currently the office receives no dedicated funds to support efforts for foster youth.

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

Orangewood Foundation:

[www.orangewoodfoundation.org/programs\\_scholars.asp](http://www.orangewoodfoundation.org/programs_scholars.asp)

Office of the Chancellor, News and Information:

[www.chancellor.uci.edu/080527\\_guardian\\_scholars.php](http://www.chancellor.uci.edu/080527_guardian_scholars.php)

## LOS ANGELES

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**Program Name:** Guardian Scholars Program

**Year the program was established:** 2007 (fall)

**Number of students served:** Approximately 15 to 20 a quarter

**Contact person for additional information:** Enku Gelaye, Executive Officer, Office of the Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs, email: [egelaye@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto:egelaye@saonet.ucla.edu), phone: (310) 206-1605

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

- Designated Campus Lead to coordinate services and troubleshoot
- Training for key faculty and staff (circle of university staff and faculty support)
- Dedicated financial aid counseling (Chaffee- and FAFSA-specific resources for foster youth)
- One-stop resource center or website (coming August 2009)
- Year-round access to housing
- Targeted academic counseling and tutoring
- UCLA Bruin Guardian Club (undergraduate student organization for youth exiting foster care)
- SEED Mentoring Project, a program that pairs UCLA students with foster youth between the ages of 13 and 15
- Partnership with School of Social Welfare to identify and track UCLA's foster youth population, to be completed November 2009
- Scholarship for foster youth (Carl H. Unruh Undergraduate Scholarship)
- Collaborative relationship with YWCA Transitional Living Facility for women exiting the foster care system

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

Guardian Scholars website to be launched August 2009

UCLA Scholarship Resource Center Newsletter:

[www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/src/pdf/Strategies\\_FALL\\_2008\\_final.pdf](http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/src/pdf/Strategies_FALL_2008_final.pdf)

News Articles:

[newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/young-humanitarians-win-prestige-49332.aspx](http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/young-humanitarians-win-prestige-49332.aspx)

## RIVERSIDE

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**Program Name:** Guardian Scholars

**Year the program was established:** 2008

**Number of students served:** 7 (expected to grow to 40 in the next few years)

**Contact person for additional information:** Tuppett Yates, email: [tuppett.yates@ucr.edu](mailto:tuppett.yates@ucr.edu), phone: (951) 827-4991

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

The UCR Guardian Scholars program provides a network of resources to students who are aging out or emancipating from the foster care system to facilitate their successful pursuit of higher education. The program draws on the resources, strength and support of the UCR community to provide scholars with a comprehensive college experience and the opportunity to explore and realize their full potential.

Members from all areas of the UCR community initially met to discuss supporting emancipated foster youth in April 2008. Less than six months later, the UCR campus faculty, staff and students welcomed our first cohort of Guardian Scholar students to campus this fall. Since then, our program has grown and we look forward to its continuing success in the future.

**Support and Services**

- Year-round on-campus housing
- Academic and professional mentoring
- Health and counseling services
- Peer mentoring and student programming
- Admission and enrollment assistance
- Financial counseling and FAFSA assistance
- Employment assistance and career counseling
- UCR Host program

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

UCR Guardian Scholars:

[www.guardianscholars.ucr.edu](http://www.guardianscholars.ucr.edu) (This website is under construction)

News Articles:

[newsroom.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?id=1900](http://newsroom.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?id=1900)

[ucrmagazine.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?id=156](http://ucrmagazine.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?id=156)

## SAN DIEGO

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**Program Name:** Guardian Scholars Program

**Year the program was established:** 2008

**Number of students served:** 7

**Contact person for additional information:** Susan Kelly, email: [skelly@ucsd.edu](mailto:skelly@ucsd.edu), phone: (858) 822-1366.

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

UCSD Guardian Scholars Program collaborates with the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation's (CAPF) Guardian Scholars Program, which supports former foster youth. CAPF also raises and administers scholarships in the amount of \$3,500 –\$5,000 per academic year to eligible UC San Diego undergraduate students.

Representatives from key areas on campus, such as Financial Aid, Admissions, Extension, Housing, Dining and Hospitality, Career Services, OASIS, EAOP, the colleges and more comprise a high-level working group committed to supporting former foster youth at our campus. This collaboration allows us to have a unique network of professional staff available to the students. The program provides more than scholarship funds. Scholars also enjoy special privileges for being a Guardian Scholar, such as:

- Orientation to University life
- Access to on-campus housing all year round
- Student employment opportunities
- Assistance with financial aid applications
- Life skills counseling
- Career planning
- Recognition events for scholars and/or program representatives

Guardian Scholars have the opportunity to apply to the LAUNCH program, developed by UC San Diego Extension. The program is designed specifically for UCSD undergraduates to provide an opportunity to learn real-world practical skills in focused, industry-related coursework to prepare them for careers after graduation. LAUNCH includes working one-on-one with a coach to help guide students in their professional development. UC San Diego undergraduates pay \$650 for the program; however, through additional funding, Guardian Scholars can participate at no cost.

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

UCSD Guardian Scholars Program:

[www.ucsd.edu/portal/site/ucsd/menuitem.135225ab0c7ce3c0c0020010d34b01ca/?vgnnextoid=3132a121709fd110VgnVCM100000c7b410acRCRD](http://www.ucsd.edu/portal/site/ucsd/menuitem.135225ab0c7ce3c0c0020010d34b01ca/?vgnnextoid=3132a121709fd110VgnVCM100000c7b410acRCRD)

UCSD Guardian Scholars Brochure:

[faofoms.ucsd.edu/forms/8guardianbrochure.pdf](http://faofoms.ucsd.edu/forms/8guardianbrochure.pdf)

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**SANTA BARBARA**

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**Program Name:** Guardian Scholars

**Year the program was established:** 2008

**Number of students served:** Approx. 10 (founding group); anticipate 20 new students per year.

**Contact person for additional information:** Lisa Przekop, Office of Admissions; email: [lisa.przekop@sa.ucsb.edu](mailto:lisa.przekop@sa.ucsb.edu), phone: (805) 893-3873

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

The UCSB Guardian Scholars Program supports the academic and personal success for students who have been part of the foster care system. This support includes academic support, enrichment services, student advocacy, career guidance, peer networking, housing assistance, and financial aid advising

**Program Goals:**

- Ensure incoming students experience a smooth transition into the UCSB community
- Provide a network of services to enhance the educational experiences of students from matriculation through graduation
- Establish a network of campus personnel who will assist students as they process all university business matters (Financial Aid, Housing, registration, etc.).

- Provide academic advising that supports academic success
- Provide leadership opportunities that enhance personal growth, career enhancement, and graduate school opportunities
- Build a peer support network in which currently enrolled students serve as mentors to prospective students considering higher education
- Participate in advocacy efforts both on campus and statewide to promote awareness of issues affecting foster youth.

**Program Services:**

- Student advocacy
- Academic advising
- Navigation of campus resources
- Assistance with financial, housing, and registration issues
- Mentoring
- Referral to other campus and off-campus services
- Social support
- Career Guidance
- Leadership development

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

UCSB Guardian Scholars Facebook group: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=43502827819>

## SANTA CRUZ

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**Program Name:** The Smith Renaissance Society

**Year the program was established:** 1999

**Number of students served:** 70

**Contact person for additional information:** Corinne Miller, email: [smithsociety@ucsc.edu](mailto:smithsociety@ucsc.edu), phone: (831) 459-4968

**Description of services/aid provided by the program:**

The Smith Renaissance Society at the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) serves the college dreams of independent students: current or former foster youth, runaways, juvenile offenders, orphans or homeless youths.

Renaissance Scholars offers college-eligible high school students opportunities to sample college life and get individual guidance throughout the admission process.

Smith Renaissance Collegiate Fellows are UCSC students who belong to a community of caring friends and mentors committed to their personal and academic success.

On graduation, Collegiate Fellows continue to belong to a friend's network to provide contacts and encouragement as they head to graduate school or careers. Some choose to become Senior Fellows who do the work of the Society.

Led by a board of UCSC alumni, including Smith Renaissance graduates and current and retired faculty and staff, we offer financial aid, mentoring, help navigating the University's academic and administrative systems, priority enrollment in classes, academic and emotional support, priority year-round housing, social activities, and opportunities to reach out to youths in the foster care system and local homeless shelters.

Based in Services for Transfer and Re-entry Students (STARS) in the Academic Resource Center, the Smith Renaissance Society created California's first University-based comprehensive path to college admission for foster youths and other

independent students. Most Collegiate Fellows graduate. Many go on to excel in professional and graduate programs at prestigious universities.

**Other information available (e.g., website, brochure, news article):**

The Smith Renaissance Society at UCSC:

[www.smithsociety.ucsc.edu/index.html](http://www.smithsociety.ucsc.edu/index.html)

News Articles:

“New Grant to Aid Innovative Foster Youth Program,” *UCSC Currents*, April 5, 2004

“Scholastic Society Helping Wards of Court Succeed,” January 16, 2003, City on a Hill Press

“Supporting Students in Need,” 2000–2001 UCSC Foundation Report

“Beating the odds: From foster care to UC Santa Cruz,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, November 11, 2001

“Alumnus creates scholarship honoring Page and Eloise Pickard Smith,” *UCSC Currents*, May 3, 1999

“Alumnus’s Fond Memories Inspire Scholarship,” 1998–1999 UCSC Foundation Report