Supporting resilience in student success —
A tale of two programs
An overview

• Origin story
• State funding
• Current state-of-affairs
• Services available
• Tips for counselors
• Resources
Introducing Guardian Scholars
Origin story

1998
Guardian Scholars
started at CSU Fullerton

2005
Berkeley Hope Scholars founded by one student at UC Berkeley

2007-2019
Foster youth programming expands across the UC system

2022
UC system is awarded funding for CA foster youth
Current state of affairs

The 2022/2023 budget bill included funding for campus support programs for foster youth across all three public postsecondary systems. Language governing these programs was included in AB 183, the higher education budget trailer bill.
State funding and expanding programs

An increase of $6 million ongoing General Fund to increase support for foster youth students across all UC campuses.

Funding to be used for...

• Outreach
• Collaborations with County Jurisdictions (K-12 Foster youth)
• Targeted marketing of Program Services
• Efforts towards student retention and academic success
Services available

Retention

• Priority housing and enrollment
• Material and financial assistance
• Free printing & testing materials
• Liaison services w/housing, financial aid, counseling services, etc.
• Community-centered programming

Success

• Mentorship
• Career advising & development
• Networking opportunities
• Graduate & professional school preparation
• Tutoring & academic advising
Tips for counselors

• Be inclusive in your language and programming.

• Be aware of a few resources or organizations for current and/or former foster youth.

• Inform your students of resources and services that will be available to them in the UC system.

• Encourage students who may be current and/or former foster youth that higher education is a path they can take and succeed in.

• Engage in trauma-informed care training, if available or given the opportunity.
Resources

Find all the campus contacts for current and former foster youth services directly on the UCOP website:
# Foster youth campus resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>Berkeley Hope Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://www.hope.berkeley.edu">https://www.hope.berkeley.edu</a></td>
<td>Charly King Beavers&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:charlykb@berkeley.edu">charlykb@berkeley.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>Guardian Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/programs/guardian-scholars">https://opportunity.ucdavis.edu/programs/guardian-scholars</a></td>
<td>Valeri Garcia&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:vqgarcia@ucdavis.edu">vqgarcia@ucdavis.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irvine</td>
<td>Foster Youth Resilience In Education (FYRE) Scholars</td>
<td><a href="http://fyre.due.uci.edu">http://fyre.due.uci.edu</a></td>
<td>Martha Contreras&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:m.contreras@uci.edu">m.contreras@uci.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Bruin Guardian Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://www.guardianscholars.ucla.edu">https://www.guardianscholars.ucla.edu</a></td>
<td>Teaira Nelson&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:tnelson@saonet.ucla.edu">tnelson@saonet.ucla.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus</td>
<td>Program Name</td>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>Guardian Scholars</td>
<td><a href="http://guardianscholars.ucmerced.edu">http://guardianscholars.ucmerced.edu</a></td>
<td>Edith Ramirez <a href="mailto:eramirez226@ucmerced.edu">eramirez226@ucmerced.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>Office of Foster Youth Support Services</td>
<td><a href="https://fosteryouth.ucr.edu">https://fosteryouth.ucr.edu</a></td>
<td>Stephen Morales <a href="mailto:stephan.morales@ucr.edu">stephan.morales@ucr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Hope Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://oasis.ucsd.edu/programs/hope-scholars/index.html">https://oasis.ucsd.edu/programs/hope-scholars/index.html</a></td>
<td>Kesia Williams <a href="mailto:hopescholars@ucsd.edu">hopescholars@ucsd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Guardian Scholars</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/guardianscholars/home">http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/guardianscholars/home</a></td>
<td>Stephany Rubio <a href="mailto:stephany.rubio@sa.ucsb.edu">stephany.rubio@sa.ucsb.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Renaissance Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://renaissancescholars.ucsc.edu">https://renaissancescholars.ucsc.edu</a></td>
<td>Liz Moya <a href="mailto:emoya@ucsc.edu">emoya@ucsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introducing Underground Scholars
Origin story

2013
Underground Scholars Initiative (USI) student organization founded by UC Berkeley alumni Danny Murillo and Steven Czifra

2014
USI received funding from UCB through a fee referendum that students voted on

2016
Partnered with Senator Loni Hancock to secure state funding for development of an academic support program (USP)

2016
formerly incarcerated students at UCLA develop a chapter

2019 - 2023
USI and USP has expanded to all other UC campuses

Building a prison-to-university pipeline
An increase of $4 million ongoing General Fund to increase support for the Underground Scholars Program.
"... with $80 million in approved spending on alternative schools and the continuation of $15 million for programs to connect incarcerated youth to higher education, the new state budget furthers the goal of improving the lives and futures of incarcerated youth."
Services available

**Recruitment**
- Cross enrollment programs
- Ambassador programs
- Transfer programs
- Incarceration to college program

**Retention**
- Community space/events
- Tutoring and advising
- Employment and leadership development
- Financial support
- Housing assistance

**Advocacy**
- State policy and budget advocacy
- Advocacy for students
- Policy research
- Humanizing language
Tips for counselors

• Be informed and raise awareness of programs and services you can refer your students to once they transition into the UC system.

• Use humanizing language when communicating with students involved in the carceral system.

• If given the opportunity, engage in trauma-informed care training.

• Acknowledge student successes and accomplishments.
Resources

Find all the campus contacts for formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students directly on the Berkeley Underground Scholars website!
# Underground Scholars campus resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berkeley</td>
<td>Berkeley Underground Scholars</td>
<td><img src="https://undergroundscholars.berkeley.edu" alt="Link" /></td>
<td>Azadeh Zohrabi <a href="mailto:azadehzohrabi@berkeley.edu">azadehzohrabi@berkeley.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>Underground Scholars</td>
<td><img src="https://linktr.ee/undergrounducd" alt="Link" /></td>
<td><a href="mailto:undergrounducd@gmail.com">undergrounducd@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irvine</td>
<td>Underground Scholars Program</td>
<td><img src="https://undergroundscholars.uc.edu" alt="Link" /></td>
<td>Hector Cervantes <a href="mailto:hcervan1@uci.edu">hcervan1@uci.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>Bruin Underground Scholars Program</td>
<td><img src="https://www.guardianscholars.ucla.edu" alt="Link" /></td>
<td>Aaron Bray <a href="mailto:abray@saonet.ucla.edu">abray@saonet.ucla.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Underground Scholars campus resources cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>Bobcat Underground Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://learning.ucmerced.edu/bobcat-underground-scholars">https://learning.ucmerced.edu/bobcat-underground-scholars</a></td>
<td>Edith Ramirez <a href="mailto:eramirez226@ucmerced.edu">eramirez226@ucmerced.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>Riverside Underground Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://diversity.ucr.edu/underground-scholars-initiative">https://diversity.ucr.edu/underground-scholars-initiative</a></td>
<td>Ismael Davila <a href="mailto:ismael.davila@ucr.edu">ismael.davila@ucr.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>Triton Underground Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://oasis.ucsd.edu/programs/USI-folder/">https://oasis.ucsd.edu/programs/USI-folder/</a></td>
<td>Collen Murphy <a href="mailto:usi@ucsd.edu">usi@ucsd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Barbara</td>
<td>Gaucho Underground Scholars</td>
<td><a href="https://gauchoundergrounds.wixsite.com/my-site">https://gauchoundergrounds.wixsite.com/my-site</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:gauchoundergroundscholars@gmail.com">gauchoundergroundscholars@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz</td>
<td>Underground Scholars Program</td>
<td><a href="https://undergroundscholars.ucsc.edu/">https://undergroundscholars.ucsc.edu/</a></td>
<td>Joshua Solis <a href="mailto:jgsolis@ucsc.edu">jgsolis@ucsc.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you