In 2007 I met an amazing young woman who had grown up in the foster care system. That meeting changed my life and inspired me to create the Guardian Scholars Program at UCSB. I am very proud of the program, as it has matured into the program we have today. We adopted the philosophy of “Nothing for us, without us” which means THIS IS YOUR PROGRAM! Each student who participates will have an impact on the program and all activities we plan, services we provide and the evolution of the program as we continue to grow.

The Guardian Scholars Program is here to serve your needs and to support you on your journey of academic success and career preparation. We will cheer you on every step of the way and lend our support when you need an extra hand to keep you on track for success. We will also have a lot of fun as we connect for hikes, barbecues, holiday events and simply hanging out!

It is my honor and privilege to work with you. You join the company of many amazing Guardian Scholars who attended UCSB and who forever remain part of our special Guardian Scholars family. It is my hope that UC Santa Barbara will become home to you and that I can lend my support to your success.

Lisa Przekop
Founder & Advisor
Guardian Scholars Program

**Welcoming Atmosphere**

2009
UCSB Guardian Scholars Program established

175
current UCSB students self-identify as former foster youth

44
different majors are represented within the Guardian Scholars student population

60+
donors have supported the Guardian Scholars program

100+
scholarships have been awarded through the Guardian Scholars program
Peer Advisors
Peer Advisors are students of the Guardian Scholars Program who have been hired to assist in programmatic activities and development. As the front line staff, the Peer Advisors are the face of the program. They facilitate meetings, plan and conduct student activities and lead the student organization.

Student Organization
The student organization component of the Guardian Scholars Program is a single component of the program, as well as the most fundamental. Through the UCSB Office of Student Life, the student organization plans events, hosts fundraisers and allows students to find and build their community of peers within the program.

Program Partners

Educational Opportunity Program
EOP services all students while focusing on low-income and first-generation undergraduates. EOP provides mentorship, social and cultural programming, one-on-one counseling and advising, campus student support service referrals and academic programs. All students in the Guardian Scholars Program are EOP eligible.

Associated Students Food Bank
The Food Bank provides a pantry for students on campus, including members of the Guardian Scholars Program, when personal supplies and necessities, including food, are scarce. The Guardian Scholars Program gives back to the Food Bank through food drives, collaborations and volunteering.

University Housing
Students of the Guardian Scholars Program are given priority in housing placements and have the support of a dedicated liaison who is constantly assisting with special requests and unique needs.
There are many different supporters and champions of the Guardian Scholars Program throughout the Santa Barbara community who assist students in many different ways and areas. In addition to many individual donors, the Guardian Scholars Program would like to acknowledge the following foundations and groups:

The Makarechian Foundation • The Hilton Foundation • The Center for Living Peace • The Towbes Group • Santa Barbara Assistance League • Quest Family Foundation • The John Burton Foundation • Nisbet Family Foundation • UCSB Transportation Alternatives Program • Rotary Club • Echoes of Hope Foundation • Merrill Lynch Wealth Management • The Marin Community Foundation • Robert Nunez DDS/Orfalea Foundation • Teach a Man to Fish Foundation