

# What is the **Guardian Professions Program**?

The UC Davis **Guardian Professions Program** is an exciting new opportunity for former foster youth who have completed their undergraduate studies and want to prepare for a career through a **graduate program or professional school**. Similar to the Guardian Scholars Program, the Guardian Professions Program will offer supportive services to all students enrolled in a graduate program at the university who spent some of their K-12 years in foster care.

The **Guardian Professions Program** will provide support to any student enrolled in one of the 90 Graduate Studies degree programs at UC Davis or one of our professional schools. We are currently recruiting students for Fall of 2014 and invite interested candidates to fill out our survey:  
<http://tinyurl.com/UCDavisGPPsurvey>

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## Helping former **foster youth** meet their goals

In September 2010, there were nearly **60,000 children in the foster care system** because their families were unable to care for them. Though 70 percent of foster youth express an interest in college, only 50 percent graduate from high school, 10 percent enroll in college, and only 2 percent graduate from college.\*

Youth formerly in foster care face many challenges that impede their opportunities for higher education. For those who want to pursue a graduate degree, the challenges are often insurmountable without supportive



services and mentoring. The UC Davis Guardian Professions Program is the first of its kind to help students reach new heights with their academic goals and in their professional lives.

\* Statistics from the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections and the California Foster Youth Education Task Force.

### The First **Guardian Professions Scholar**

**Lynn** grew up on the streets of Chicago and spent the first six years of her life enduring abuse and neglect from her drug-addicted parents. Every day was a new struggle against hunger, anger, and loneliness. Although this was a dark time, it was through these experiences that she learned how to be a responsible leader.



All through high school and her undergraduate career, Lynn worked hard to be the best student she could be. She always knew she wanted to teach, and she knew education was the only way to reach her goal. When she becomes a teacher, she would like her students to understand how education can positively impact their lives – Lynn wants to be that teacher who makes a positive impact in a student's life.

Former foster youth, like Lynn, often wonder how they are going to reach their professional goals. They are sometimes unsure about what career path to pursue, how to finance their education and what

kinds of opportunities will help them get started on the path towards self-sufficiency. The UC Davis Guardian Professions Program will educate students about graduate school, encourage their application and enrollment, and offer supportive services as they pursue an advanced degree.

Lynn is the first Guardian Professions Scholar made possible with the funds and the vision of the Stuart Foundation, which is dedicated to the protection, education and development of children and youth in California and Washington. In the fall of 2011, the Stuart Foundation implemented the first steps towards building a model that will encourage students to enroll in a graduate program or a professional school.

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