**San Francisco State University**

**Guardian Scholar’s Program**

Jennifer Morales

Age: 18

Major: Psychology

Minor: Music

**How do you view higher education?**

It’s a way of self-improvement. For me and a lot of kids with my situation, it was easy to doubt myself. But I realized that even if it is hard at first, or even if I don’t succeed the first time, the feeling I get from bouncing back, it gets to me. Being able to bounce back from my mistakes and hard times, it makes me feel stronger. It gives me a high on life. I want to succeed.

**What is the biggest way Guardian Scholars helped you?**

Connecting with other kids like me. Those of us that were in foster care, we really get each other in a different way than other kids. They don’t sympathize, they understand and support in a different way.

All of us are walking into campus for the first time and don’t really know what to do. But my roommates were all in the same situation I was in. I remember breaking down in the bathroom and locking myself in. My roommates sat on the other side of the door and just talked to me. I remember thinking, all of us are freaking out, but we are freaking out together. Having them there to actually listen—that was irreplaceable.

**If you could give a message to all current foster youth, what would you say?**

You have to have hope. When you have hope, anything is possible. If you think you can or can’t, that’s what you will do. You have to remember, you are in charge of your future. And that is scary, but it is okay to be a little scared.