

12-2019

Increasing Active Engagement & Participation in the Guardian Scholars Program

Cali Trimble
California State University, Monterey Bay

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/caps_thes_all

Recommended Citation

Trimble, Cali, "Increasing Active Engagement & Participation in the Guardian Scholars Program" (2019).
Capstone Projects and Master's Theses. 598.
https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/caps_thes_all/598

This Capstone Project (Open Access) is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ CSUMB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Capstone Projects and Master's Theses by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ CSUMB. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@csumb.edu.

Increasing Active Engagement & Participation in the Guardian Scholars Program

Cali Trimble

Guardian Scholars Program - Keyiona Ritchey

Collaborative Health & Human Services

Department of Health Human Services and Public Policy

California State University Monterey Bay

December 19, 2019

Author Note

Cali Trimble, Department of Health Human Services and Public Policy, California State University Monterey Bay. This research was supported by the Guardian Scholars Program. Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Cali Trimble, California State University Monterey Bay, 100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA, 93955. Contact: ctrimble@csumb.edu.

Abstract

The Guardian Scholars Program at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) serves college students who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness. The program seeks to holistically support students from these historically underserved populations. Former foster youth, in particular, have extremely low college graduation rates. Students from these backgrounds have to overcome personal struggles and academic troubles as well as a lack of knowledge/awareness of how to succeed in college. For many years, the Guardian Scholars Program at CSUMB has experienced a lack of active participation among its members. As a result, many Guardian Scholars members are not utilizing the services and benefits that the program offers. In addition, a lack of active participation presents possible risks to the funding that supports Guardian Scholars. This capstone project focuses on implementing new strategies to increase active participation rates among new members for the Fall 2019 semester. Results showed that participation rates were up 20% for Fall 2019 from the previous semester, Spring 2019. These results are promising for the future of the Guardian Scholars Program.

Keywords: Guardian Scholars, former foster youth, foster youth, homeless, college support program

Agency & Communities Served

Guardian Scholars is a college support program at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). The program supports students from the following backgrounds: former foster youth, current foster youth/non-minor dependents, ward of the court/ward of the state, orphan, adopted, homeless and those raised in kinship care or guardianship care. Their mission statement is, “The Guardian Scholars Program supports current and former foster youth who are in college by providing access, maintaining a support network that promotes academic success, personal development, and connecting students with their potential to become successful and productive world citizens.”. (California State University Monterey Bay, n.d.). Guardian Scholars operates under the umbrella of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a college support program that supports first generation and low income college students.

Guardian Scholars provides a variety of services to its participants including priority registration, school supplies, a computer lab with free printing and a Personal Care Pantry. Recently implemented is a Laptop Loan Program, which has been met with great demand from students. For financial assistance, the program also offers an emergency grant, available up to \$500, for its students. Each semester, the program hosts several cultural activities. In past semesters, students have visited Google & Facebook Headquarters, Hearst Castle and Alcatraz. The primary purpose of these cultural activities is to “provide a community of belonging and opportunities to build relationships with other students in the Guardian Scholars Program”. (California State University Monterey Bay, n.d.).

Students meet regularly throughout the semester with the program’s Retention Advisor. In addition, students are matched up with a faculty/staff mentor. A group of students, primarily first and second year students, also meet with a Peer Mentor. These various sources of support

INCREASING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM 4

are used to “develop a system of accountability around identifying and achieving goals”.

(California State University Monterey Bay, n.d.).

As of the Spring 2019 semester, the program has 46 participants. Of those, 65% entered CSUMB as first-time freshmen and 35% as transfer students. Currently, 15% are freshmen, 22% are sophomores, 30% are juniors and 33% are seniors. As of the Fall 2018 semester, 89% of students are in good academic standing, and 33% were on the Dean’s List. Almost three-quarters (74%) are female while 26% are male. 35% of participants are between the ages 18-20, 41% between the ages of 21-24, 15% are between the ages 25-30 and 9% are 35 or older. The youngest student is 18 and the oldest is 41. Over half, 52%, of students are in another college support program (EOP, TRiO or CAMP) in addition to Guardian Scholars (Guardian Scholars, 2019). TRiO Student Support Services is a college support program that serves students who are low income, first generation, and/or have a disability. CAMP is the College Assistant Migrant Program, which serves students who come from a migrant or farmworker background.

Nationally, there is an average of 437,000 children in foster care on any given day. Between the years of 1990-2016, there were anywhere between 397,000 and 567,000 children in foster care each year (Child Trend, n.d.). While it is difficult to fully quantify, these numbers prove that millions of children have spent time in foster care. In 2015, there were 62,035 children in foster care and 450 of those were in Monterey County (Kidsdata.org, n.d.).

Problem Description

Less than 3% of former foster youth earn a college degree by age 26 (Fryar, Jordan & DeVooght, 2017). By these statistics, former foster youth are one of the least likely populations to graduate from college. While 70-80% of former foster youth aspire to go to college, there are many factors that make this a difficult journey for them (Wolanin, 2005). These issues are deep

rooted, complicated, and have extensive consequences on former foster youth in the grand scheme of things.

Contributing Factors

In many ways, former foster youth are left to fend for themselves when it comes to college. This means that most have little to no help with applying for college, financial aid, housing, etc. Without help, it can be easy to miss a deadline or make a small mistake, both of which can have grave consequences for former foster youth. Once they get to college, many former foster youth are unaware of resources that are available to them including college support programs such as Guardian Scholars, and financial aid opportunities such as the CHAFEE grant (Wiltz, 2017). This lack of knowledge/awareness is a major barrier for former foster youth to succeed in higher education.

The students that Guardian Scholars serves have unique needs. Many have experienced trauma during childhood, leading to higher incidences of mental health problems. Studies show that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is the most common, but depression, social phobia, panic syndrome, and generalized anxiety disorder are not far behind (Wolanin, 2005). Lack of consistent support from adults often leads to a mistrust of authority figures. This also discourages many former foster youth from seeking help, as many have been conditioned to believe they don't need or deserve the help (Pryce, Napolitano, & Samuels, 2017). These experiences can cause former foster youth to put emotional walls up, either intentionally or unintentionally.

The academic aspect of college can also be a major challenge for former foster youth. For starters, only 58% will graduate high school by age 19 (Fryar, Jordan, & DeVooght, 2017). One reason for this is that in the foster care system, youth will commonly change schools with new placements. Foster youth also have an increased likelihood to attend lower performing schools

and be put into basic education classes, rather than college preparatory classes (Dworsky, 2017). Subpar academic preparation in high school means that many former foster youth don't even have the qualifications to get into college. For those that do get in, many are stuck catching up to their peers, all while dealing with all of the other learning curves that come with starting college (Wolanin, 2005).

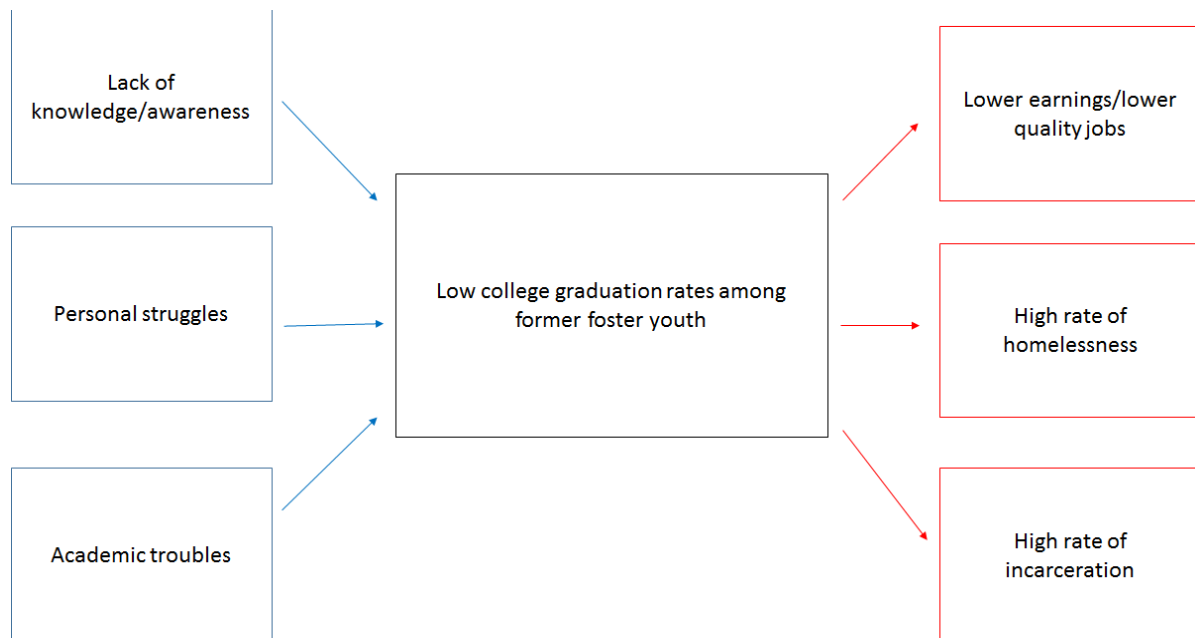
Consequences

A 2017 national study found that former foster youth have higher unemployment rates, earn lower incomes and generally have lower quality jobs than the general public. Only 46% of former foster youth are employed at age 26, compared to 80% of the general population. Of those that are employed, the average income of an employed 26 year old former foster youth is only \$13,989 while that number is \$32,312 for the general population. Yet another example of this disparity is that 51% of employed 26 year old former foster youths are eligible for employer-provided healthcare, in comparison to 79% of the general population (Fryar, Jordan, & DeVooght, 2017). Seeing that eligibility for employer-provided healthcare is typically a sign of a high quality job, typically full-time, indicates that former foster youth tend to receive lower quality jobs.

The foster care system has been called a "pipeline to homelessness". To quantify this issue, 36% of former foster youth will experience homelessness by age 26. Some will instantly become homeless from emancipation or aging out of the foster care system (Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative, 2014). In California, approximately 1 in 3 will experience homelessness within two years of exiting the foster care system. Not only do former foster youth have higher rates of homelessness, they also are more likely to become homeless at a young age and remain homeless for longer periods of time (San Diego Youth Services, n.d.).

Former foster youth have astonishingly high rates of arrests and incarceration. Within two years of exiting the foster care system, around 25% will be involved in the criminal justice system. Between the ages of 18-26, 42% of females and 68% of males will be arrested. These numbers are much higher than the general public which is 5% for females and 22% for males. There are even larger disparities when looking at rates of incarceration. Between the ages of 18-26, 33% of females and 64% of males will be incarcerated. For the general public, those numbers are 3% for females and 9% for males (Fryar, Jordan, & DeVooght, 2017). These shocking statistics demonstrate a correlation between foster care and the criminal justice system that is rarely talked about.

Problem Model



Capstone Project Description and Justification

Capstone Project

This capstone project focuses mainly on increasing active participation in the Guardian Scholars Program. It was decided that the most effective way to do this was to start fresh with

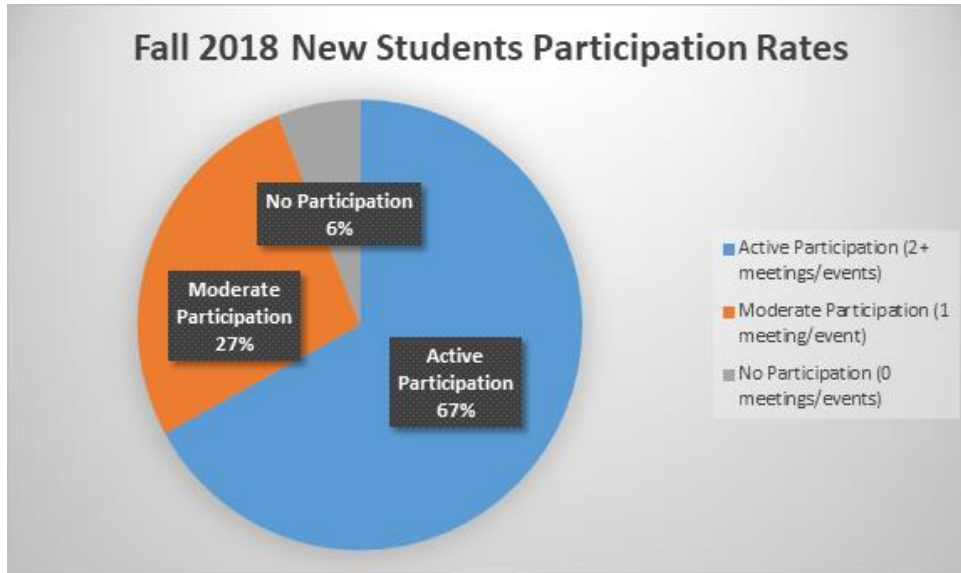
INCREASING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM 8

various strategies for new participants beginning in the Fall 2019 semester. This process began with early outreach to qualified prospective students during the Spring 2019 semester (January-May 2019). Another element was updating the Guardian Scholars application process.

Applicants must now provide a letter of recommendation and go through an interview with a staff member to be admitted in the program. These elements were added in the hopes of gaining more dedicated applicants. Once students are admitted into the program, participation requirements will be reiterated frequently by staff members.

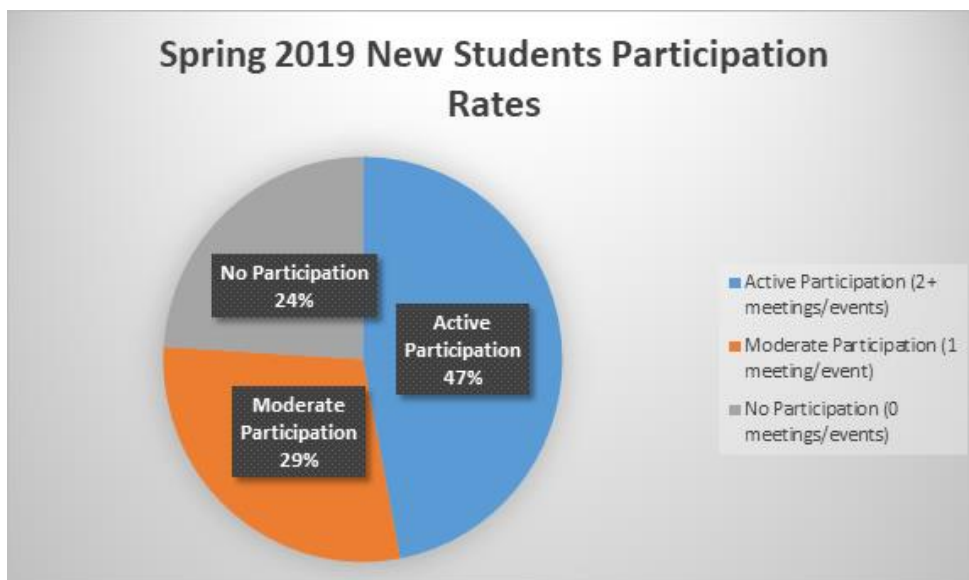
Throughout this process, data will be used to compare the effectiveness of these new strategies to increase active participation among the program's new members. Comparison will specifically focus on participation rates among new students for Fall 2019 compared to the previous semesters, Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. Active participation is considered to be attending 2 or more meetings/events per semester. Moderate participation is considered to be attending only 1 meeting or event per semester. No participation means no attendance of any meetings or events in the semester. Meetings are defined as when a student comes into the office to meet with either the Retention Advisor or the Peer Mentor. The Fall 2018 semester had 15 new members, with a 67% active participation rate, as shown in Figure A. Of the new members for the Fall 2018 semester 2018 semester, 20% were in another college support program in addition to Guardian Scholars.

Figure A. Participation Rates Among New Students for Fall 2018 Semester



Active participation rates among new students lowered in the following semester, Spring 2019. This semester added two new students, so the total number of new students for this term was 17. Less than half (47%) of new students actively participated, and the number of new percentage with no participation (24%) quadrupled since the previous semester. Spring 2019 participation rates are shown in Figure B.

Figure B. Participation Rates Among New Students for the Spring 2019 Semester



Project Purpose

The aspect of early outreach to qualified students connects to the lack of knowledge/awareness in the problem model. If people do not know that the program exists, there is no way of helping the populations that qualify for its services. While doing outreach, most applicants noted that they did not know about Guardian Scholars before that point. This further proves the point that outreach is essential to grow the program and serve more qualified students.

Increasing active participation connects to all 3 causes from the problem model. Even if a student is in Guardian Scholars, it does not mean they are actively engaged and taking advantage of the services/benefits of the program. Guardian Scholars is a support program and many members are not currently taking advantage of that support. Without seeking help, lack of knowledge/awareness, personal struggles and academic troubles can have detrimental effects on a former foster youth's college journey.

Without active participation, grant-funded programs like Guardian Scholars could be at risk. In order to justify getting funding for the benefits and services that Guardian Scholars provides, staff must prove that the money will go to good use. When supplies go unused and events are not attended, it can be a cause for concern for the future of the program. This further exemplifies the importance of active participation in the Guardian Scholars Program.

Project Justification

In a study of ten college support programs serving former foster youth, 69.4% of them required applicants to submit a letter of recommendation and 66.3% required an interview with a program representative. In the same study, 81.6% of program participants stated that they interacted with program staff in person at least several times a semester/quarter/trimester, if not more frequently. In this study, only 7.1% stated that they interacted with program staff in person

once a semester/quarter/trimester and 6.1% said they never interacted with program staff in person. This data is promising to show a connection between added admissions elements (letter of recommendation and interview) and higher participation rates (Dworsky & Perez, 2009).

Project Implementation

This project began with surveying current members to get an insight into how they learned about the Guardian Scholars Program and why they decided to join. Participants were also asked for recommendations for the Guardian Scholars Program to improve outreach to prospective students. The survey was sent out in February 2019 and received a total of 11 responses.

The feedback from this survey showed that current students heard about the Guardian Scholars in a wide variety of ways, the majority coming from email outreach, a counselor at high school or college, or word of mouth. The reasons why current students decided to join the program varied as well, with common themes being emotional support, academic support and the opportunity to connect with others from similar backgrounds. 72.7% of students said that they are highly likely to recommend the program to prospective students. Survey questions and responses can be seen in Appendix A.

Outreach was primarily done during the Spring 2019 semester (January-May 2019). During this time, qualified students were contacted via email. This data was retrieved from Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Admissions staff, who compiled a list of Fall 2019 EOP applicants who marked 'yes' to the foster youth box. 95 initial outreach emails were sent in February 2019 and 90 follow-up emails were sent in March 2019. A total of 185 outreach emails were sent out to qualified students from this EOP list. The Fall 2019 semester admitted 9 new members, 7 of which were recruited through the EOP outreach process.

INCREASING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM 12

Another element of the outreach process was tabling at Admitted Otter Days on April 6, 2019. Prior to the event, the Guardian Scholars' scrapbook was updated with Fall 2018 activities, based on feedback from the survey of current students. During the Admitted Otter Days event, three students expressed interest in the program. In addition, four outreach presentations were done in April 2019 at local high schools and on campus for community college groups. The vast majority of the attendees of these presentations were not yet complete with their current schooling and thus would not be potentially attending CSUMB for at least a year. Nonetheless, this was still part of the outreach process. After these outreach presentations, the Guardian Scholars presentation was updated to the CSUMB format for future use.

During the Spring 2019 semester, the admissions process was also updated. Questions for the admissions interviews were created by the Retention Advisor and the Peer Mentor. As new applications came in, both the Retention Advisor and the Peer Mentor reviewed them and reached out to applicants to schedule a time to interview them either in person, over Zoom video call or over the phone. Admissions interviews were done by either the Retention Advisor or the Peer Mentor, with the Retention Advisor giving the official confirmation to students that they have been accepted to the program. A detailed implementation plan and timeline can be seen in the Scope of Work in Appendix B.

Expected Outcomes

The main desired outcome is that participation rates will be higher among newly admitted Fall 2019 students compared to new students from previous semesters (Fall 2018 & Spring 2019). The expected outcome is that at least 80% of new Fall 2019 students will be actively participating in the program (attending 2 or more meetings/events). Another expected outcome is that general awareness of the Guardian Scholars Program increases.

Assessment Plan

To track whether these efforts are successful, participation will be tracked among the Fall 2018, Spring 2019 and Fall 2019 semesters. The data will focus primarily on new students for comparison purposes. Guardian Scholars' staff currently maintain a meeting tracker, which will be used to create a spreadsheet and graphs to showcase participation rates. Participation is calculated by how many times a student comes into the office for a meeting with the Retention Advisor or Peer Mentor and/or how many events attended. Active participation is considered to be when a student attends 2 or more meetings or events per semester.

Project Results

Project Activities

The project's planned activities were implemented smoothly. The only challenge that arose was that at the start of the Fall 2019 semester, the program's Retention Advisor was out of the office for a month unexpectedly. As a result, the program's annual Welcome Back event, which is typically held in the first 2-3 weeks of the semester, was rescheduled to the 6th week of the semester. Since this project focuses on early outreach, there is the potential that these factors could have a negative impact on participation rates for new members.

Some positive changes were made as well. For the Fall 2019 semester, Guardian Scholars is holding a raffle for a Disneyland ticket. This funding was left over from the Spring 2019 semester. For every meeting/event that a student attends, they will be entered into the raffle. Adding an incentive for participation may have a positive impact on participation rates. In addition, changes have been made to hopefully prevent program fatigue that many students experience when they are in both Guardian Scholars and another college support program. Beginning Fall 2019, students who are in both EOP and Guardian Scholars are only required to

complete participation requirements for Guardian Scholars. 78% of new students for Fall 2019 are in another college support program. Of those, more than half (57%) are also in EOP.

Project Outcomes

The primary expected outcome established was that least 80% of new members for the Fall 2019 semester will be active participants, meaning they attend at least 2 or more meetings/events during the semester. Unfortunately, this outcome was not met as only 67% of new members were active participants. Another expected outcome was to spread general awareness of the Guardian Scholars Program and similar programs at other college campuses. This was accomplished through outreach that was done, including sending emails to qualified students, four outreach presentations and tabling at Admitted Otter Days.

Findings/Results

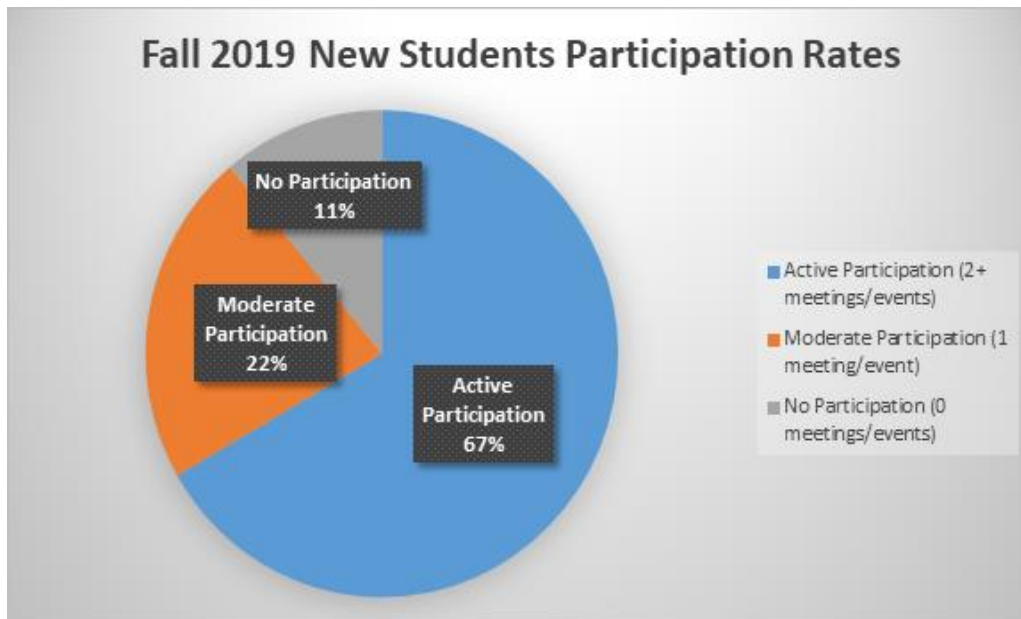
The EOP admissions process was determined to be a success, driving in 78% of new Guardian Scholars members for the Fall 2019 semester. 67% of new members were first-time freshmen and 33% are transfer students. In November 2019, a survey was sent out to new Fall 2019 students regarding the new admissions process. The survey got 7 responses, a 78% response rate. 100% of respondents said they were extremely satisfied with the admissions interview and the overall admissions process. 100% of respondents also indicated that the application process prepared them for the participation requirements involved with being in the Guardian Scholars Program.

In the survey, new students were asked what motivated them to participate in Guardian Scholars. 85.7% said a connection with Guardian Scholars staff and 71.4% said connecting with other Guardian Scholars members were motivators. In addition, 71.4% said Guardian Scholars events motivated them to participate and 28.6% said that the Disneyland ticket raffle was a

motivator. On the opposite end of things, new students were also asked if they encountered any challenges while participating in Guardian Scholars. 71.4% indicated that time conflicts made it difficult to attend meetings/events and 57.1% said participation in another college support program (EOP, TRiO or CAMP) made it difficult to participate in Guardian Scholars. Survey questions and responses can be seen in Appendix C.

Participation rates among new students for Fall 2019 ultimately matched those of new students for Fall 2018 at 67%. The numbers are a 20% increase from Spring 2019 new students, which had a 47% active participation rate. All of the students who did not reach active participation for the Fall 2019 term were in another college support program, which could be the cause of their lower participation in Guardian Scholars. Fall 2019 participation rates are shown in Figure C.

Figure C. Participation Rates Among Fall 2019 New Students (as of November 2019).



Conclusion & Recommendations

The findings suggest that the new outreach and admissions protocols had a moderate impact on active participation rates for new Fall 2019 students. Active participation rates were

up 20% (from 47% to 67%) from the previous semester, Spring 2019. The active participation rates for Fall 2019 new students matched those of new students for Fall 2018. While the project did not meet the expected goal of an 80% active participation rate, the results are still promising for future semesters.

At the start of this project, one of the proposed outreach activities was to pull data from students who apply to CSUMB through Cal State Apply and check 'yes' to the former foster youth box on the application. This was not able to be completed for Fall 2019 due to circumstances out of the program's control. However, the program's Retention Advisor recently got access to this data. One recommendation I would propose would be to use this data to do even more early outreach to applicants to the university. I would also recommend to continue doing outreach to EOP applicants who check 'yes' to the former foster youth box on the application, as that was successful in driving in new students to the program.

Moving forward, I would recommend that the Guardian Scholars Program continue to require a letter of recommendation and admissions interview in the application process. These elements set a precedent for active engagement and participation once admitted into the program. I would also recommend to continue to explore creative outreach methods as the Guardian Scholars Program is relatively unknown compared to other college support programs. The program's staff is currently working on a contact list to reach out to local high schools and community colleges to build relationships and outreach to more qualified students.

Personal Reflection

Personal/Professional Growth

Working on this project expanded my knowledge of the challenges and barriers that former foster youth face in their pursuit of obtaining a college degree. This is a population that is

severely underrepresented and most people are not aware of the innumerable hurdles they must cross to finish college. This project opened my eyes to the challenges that programs like Guardian Scholars can face when trying to serve this population. Reaching out to qualified students is more of a lengthy and complex process than I had imagined. Once students are admitted into the program, it is another challenge to get them to be actively engaged & participated at least 2 times per semester.

Strengths/Successes

The project consisted of a lot of trial and error. While the project was not massively successful based purely on the numbers, it was still successful because it taught program staff a lot about what to do and what not to do moving forward. One element that seemed to be particularly successful was the EOP admissions process, which brought in the majority of new students. The survey sent out to new students in November 2019 also indicated that students were extremely satisfied with the application process and felt it prepared them for the participation requirements of the program. Students also said it was easy to complete the application, which is a good sign to continue requiring applicants to submit a letter of recommendation and admissions interview as part of the application process.

Limitations/Challenges

An unexpected challenge that came up was that the program's Retention Advisor was out for a month at the beginning of the semester. Since this project focused on early outreach, there is a possibility that this lack of student to staff connection early in the semester caused a disconnect with participation rates. While the majority of students did participate at least once this semester (moderate participation), only 56% of students participated twice or more (active participation). Another challenge remained the concept of 'program fatigue', that students

involved in more than one college support program become overwhelmed with the different participation requirements. While some changes were made to help alleviate this among students who are both in Guardian Scholars and EOP, it still remained an issue among students in TRiO or CAMP as well as Guardian Scholars.

Broader Social Significance

The purpose of this project was to increase active participation in the Guardian Scholars Program so college students who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness can take advantage of the services and benefits of the program. This program was designed to support students from these backgrounds because of the unique challenges and barriers that they face to succeed in college. Given that less than 3% of former foster youth earn their college degree by age 25, it is safe to say that this is a much bigger issue than just at CSUMB. This issue affects millions who have experienced foster care and/or homelessness and require additional support to graduate from college.

Overall, more people should be aware of the extremely low college graduation rates among former foster youth. This population is often forgotten as well as those that have experienced homelessness. It's important that more people are aware of the barriers that these individuals face in order to support them better. I believe that all levels of education should have support available for foster youth and homeless youth. When possible, early intervention is ideal to help reduce the possibility of these individuals from facing adverse circumstances such as homelessness, incarceration or unemployment.

The advice that I would give to future interns at Guardian Scholars would be take the time to learn about the populations that the program serves. It is important to know who you are serving in order to provide the best service to those populations. My mentor provided interns

many opportunities to learn more about the populations we serve through reading articles and watching videos. I'm thankful for these opportunities because it definitely enhanced my experience as an intern.

References

- California State University Monterey Bay. (n.d.). *Guardian scholars*. Retrieved from <https://csumb.edu/guardianscholars>
- Child Trends. (n.d.). *Trends in foster care*. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/foster-care>
- Dworsky, A. (2017). *Foster care youth and postsecondary education: The long road ahead*. Retrieved from <https://www.higheredtoday.org/2017/12/11/foster-care-youth-postsecondary-education-long-road-ahead/>
- Dworsky, A. & Perez, A. (2009). *Helping former foster youth graduate from college: Campus support programs in California and Washington state*. Retrieved from http://www.fostercareandeducation.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?EntryId=1712&Command=Core_Download&method=inline&PortalId=0&TabId=124
- Fryar, G., Jordan, E., & DeVooght, J. (2017). *Supporting young people transitioning from foster care: Findings from a national survey*. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SYPTFC-Findings-from-a-National-Survey-11.29.17.pdf>
- Guardian Scholars. (2018). [End of Term Grade Report Fall 2018]. Unpublished raw data.
- Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative. (2014). *From foster home to homeless: Strategies to prevent homelessness for youth transitioning from foster care*. Retrieved from <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/JCYOI-FromFosterHometoHomeless-2014.pdf>

Kidsdata.org. (n.d.). *Children in foster care*. Retrieved from

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/20/fostercare/table#fmt=16&loc=2,320&tf=84&sort>

[ColumnId=1&sortType=desc](https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/20/fostercare/table#fmt=16&loc=2,320&tf=84&sort)

Pryce, J., Napolitano, L., & Samuels, G. M. (2017). Transition to adulthood of former foster youth. *Emerging Adulthood, 5*(5), 311-321. doi:10.1177/2167696816685231

San Diego Youth Services. (n.d.). *10 facts about foster care*. Retrieved from

https://sdyouthservices.org/about/news_events/national-foster-care-month/foster-care-facts/

Wiltz, T. (2017). *These states are helping former foster youth navigate college*. Retrieved from

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/education/these-states-are-helping-former-foster-youth-navigate-college>

Wolanin, T. (2005). *Higher education opportunities for foster youth: A primer for policymakers*.

Retrieved from

<http://www.ihep.org/sites/default/files/uploads/docs/pubs/opportunitiesfosteryouth.pdf>

Appendix A

Current Students - Admissions Survey Questions (Feb. 2019)

Guardian Scholars| Personal Care Pantry & Admissions Survey

* Required

Admissions

As the Fall 2019 semester is quickly approaching, we are in the process of revamping our outreach methods. As a current Guardian Scholars participant, we would love to hear more about how you first heard about the program and what made you decide to join the program.

We greatly appreciate your input!

How did you hear about the Guardian Scholars Program? *

- Guardian Scholars website
- EOP/TRiO/CAMP
- Counselor (high school or college)
- Tabling (ex. Orientation, Admitted Student Reception, etc.)
- Word of mouth/from a friend or classmate
- Other:

Why did you decide to join Guardian Scholars? *

Your answer



How likely are you to recommend the Guardian Scholars Program to prospective students? *

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not likely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very likely

If you recommend the program, please tell us why.

Your answer

Do you have any suggestions on how can Guardian Scholars staff can improve outreach to prospective students? *

Your answer

BACK **SUBMIT**

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created inside of Cal State Monterey Bay. [Report Abuse](#)

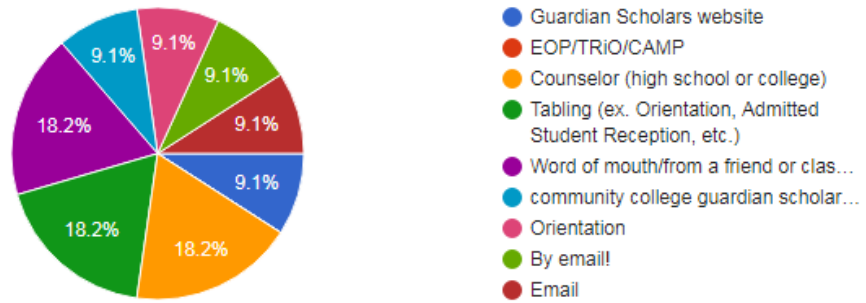
Google Forms



Current Students - Admissions Survey Responses

How did you hear about the Guardian Scholars Program?

11 responses



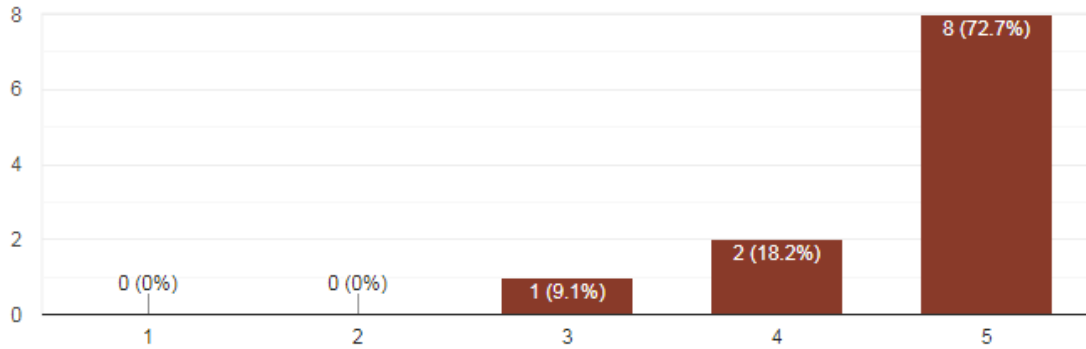
Why did you decide to join Guardian Scholars?

11 responses

- It's an amazing program.
- To try to build relationships with other like myself.
- the accessibility to financial help and a place to go and have staff help to access other services. Most importantly is to have emotional support to build confidence and life success.
- Because of my identity as a foster youth and guardianship
- Because it was a great opportunity to meet others like me.
- Because I felt like I could be in a group full of others that I can relate to and create bond with .
- To receive extra assistance while attending my first year here at csumb.
- It's a great program and very helpful throughout college
- I was unaware that this program existed before coming to CSUMB and I decided to join because I needed the support of a program that understood my background.
- academic support
- For more support

How likely are you to recommend the Guardian Scholars Program to prospective students?

11 responses



If you recommend the program, please tell us why.

9 responses

- It's a great resource for students to use if they're ever in need!
- I recommended the program because it is a great place where former foster care students can get support that they didn't get from the foster care system once they aged out of the system
- Priority registration for classes and housing, fun events, and awesome people in the community.
- Guardian Scholars has such a supportive staff and makes the college experience so much better knowing the extra support is there.
- I recommend this because the staff is so loving and out going. I really feel so much love and I never feel left out. This program is life changing and I would never ever tell anybody else other wise!
- It's a helpful program that you can learn from.
- Anytime I needed help, Guardian scholars has helped me and i think it's a really great program
- The program offers the support and family that I have needed during my time here at CSUMB.
- It is a great experience

Do you have any suggestions on how can Guardian Scholars staff can improve outreach to prospective students?

11 responses

Present in class?

Yes, tabling, flyers

go and do outreach at high schools and community colleges. educate school coucelors at those school, foster parents, social workers, judges to inform foster youth still in the system that they can get support from this program if they want to continue and go to college

Add instagram or other social media info in emails or tabling events. Make a photo album that could be used for tabling or community partners to take a look at. Become more involved on campus in general. Have flyers outside of building 47 such as the library, student center, and classroom buildings. Too many students do not know about this program.

Not at the moment.

N/A

No

A lot of us don't come because of the time it's at or we are already busy. But just trying to connect one on one with the students in the program to get to know them better on a deeper level .

Have current students tell their experiences

visit high school, community youth programs including foster care homes (or agencies)

Everything is amazing the way it js

Appendix B

Scope of Work

Activities	Deliverables	Timeline/Deadlines	Supporting Staff
One-on-one meetings with mentor	Capstone project approval	January-December 2019 (weekly basis)	Keyiona Ritchey
Survey current students	Survey questions, 11 responses	February-March 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Send outreach emails (95)	Email template, outreach tracking spreadsheet	February-April 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Send outreach follow up emails (90)	Email template, outreach tracking spreadsheet	February-April 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Call & meet prospective students (3)	Outreach tracking spreadsheet	March-April 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Update scrapbook for tabling	Scrapbook	March 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Tabling	Interest Sign In Sheet	April-July 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Outreach presentations (4)	Guardian Scholars Presentation	April 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Admissions interviews	Interview questions	April-September 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Track participation-Fall 2018	Participation spreadsheet	April 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Track participation-Spring 2019	Participation spreadsheet	September 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Track participation-Fall 2019	Participation spreadsheet	October-December 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Compare participation rates	Participation spreadsheet, graphs	October-December 2019	Keyiona Ritchey
Survey new students	Survey questions, 6 responses	November 2019	Keyiona Ritchey

Appendix C

New Students - Fall 2019 Admissions Survey (Nov. 2019)

11/13/2019

Guardian Scholars | Fall 2019 Admissions Survey

Guardian Scholars | Fall 2019 Admissions Survey

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey about your experience with the Guardian Scholars admission process.

Your feedback guides our planning, so please be open, honest, and constructive. We thank you in advance for providing feedback that will help us grow the program.

Your responses are anonymous, but if you would like an entry in the Disneyland ticket raffle, there will be an opportunity to enter your name at the end of the survey.

Best,

Guardian Scholars Team

* Required

Outreach

1. How did you learn about the Guardian Scholars Program? *

Mark only one oval.

- Email
- EOP/TRiO/CAMP
- Guardian Scholars website
- Counselor (high school or college)
- Tabling (ex. Orientation, Admitted Otter Days, etc.)
- Word of mouth/from a friend or classmate
- Other: _____

2. Rate your overall satisfaction with being in the Guardian Scholars Program. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Satisfied

3. How likely are you to recommend the Guardian Scholars Program to prospective students? *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not at all likely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Very likely

INCREASING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM 29

11/13/2019

Guardian Scholars | Fall 2019 Admissions Survey

4. If you recommend the program, please tell us why.

5. Do you have any suggestions for how Guardian Scholars can improve outreach to prospective students?

Application Process

Please think back to your process of applying to the program (submitting the online form, getting a letter of recommendation, providing eligibility verification and completing an interview with a Guardian Scholars Staff Member). Reminder: interviews were either done in person, through Zoom or over the phone shortly after you submitted your application to the program.

6. Please rate your satisfaction with the admissions interview that you completed. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Satisfied

7. Do you have any suggestions to improve the application process?

8. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the application process. *

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
Not satisfied	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Satisfied

11/13/2019

Guardian Scholars | Fall 2019 Admissions Survey

9. Do you have any comments regarding the application process?

Engagement & Participation

10. Did the admissions process prepare you for the participation requirements involved with being in the Guardian Scholars Program? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

11. What motivated you to participate in Guardian Scholars? *

Check all that apply.

- Connection with Guardian Scholars Staff
- Guardian Scholars events
- Disneyland Raffle
- Connecting with other Guardian Scholars participants
- None of the above
- Other: _____

12. Did you encounter any challenges while participating in Guardian Scholars? *

Check all that apply.

- Time conflicts made it difficult to attend meetings/events (ex. class, work, etc.)
- Demanding course load/homework
- Participation in another college support program (TRiO, EOP or CAMP)
- Not interested in events
- I did not encounter any challenges while participating in Guardian Scholars.
- Other: _____

Skip to question 13.

Thank you so much for your participation! Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

13. Your responses are anonymous, but if you would like to be entered in the Disneyland ticket raffle, enter your name below.

11/13/2019

Guardian Scholars | Fall 2019 Admissions Survey

Thank
you!

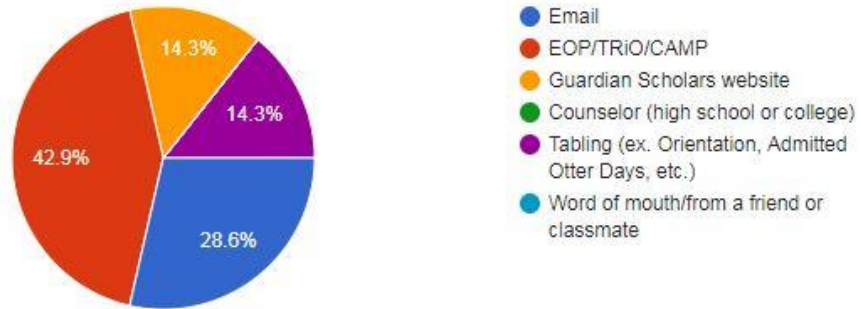
If you have any questions, feel free to email
guardianscholars@csumb.edu. Have a great day!

Powered by
 Google Forms

New Students - Fall 2019 Survey Responses

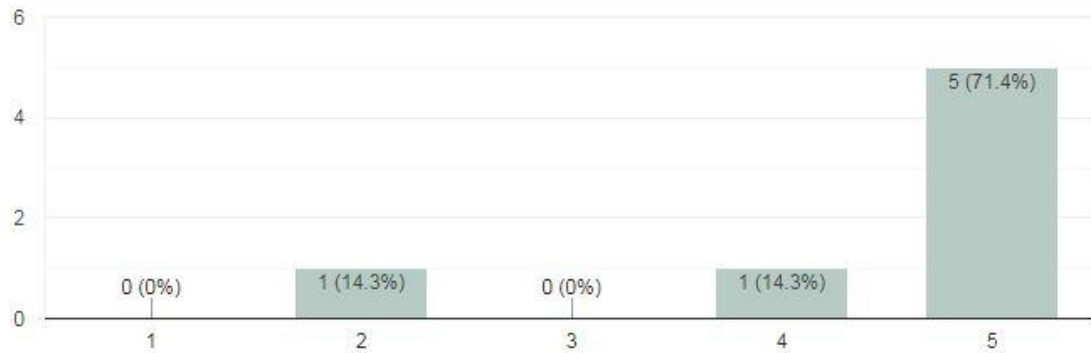
How did you learn about the Guardian Scholars Program?

7 responses



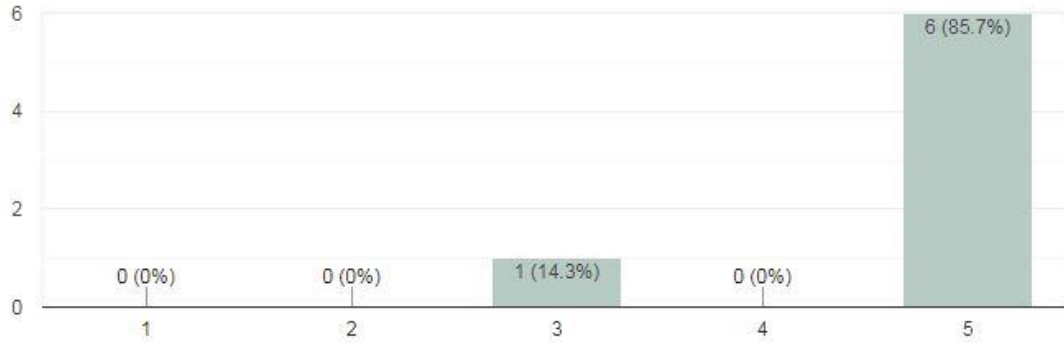
Rate your overall satisfaction with being in the Guardian Scholars Program.

7 responses



How likely are you to recommend the Guardian Scholars Program to prospective students?

7 responses



If you recommend the program, please tell us why.

6 responses

- It is very helpful because they offer support.
- This program provides mentor figures and supplies that bolster the college experience.
- Good mentors, very helpful with everything, very welcoming
- It's the type of program that really supports their students and is very understanding. Unlike other programs, it is not stressful at all.
- N/A
- It's is helping and has some great benefits

Do you have any suggestions for how Guardian Scholars can improve outreach to prospective students?

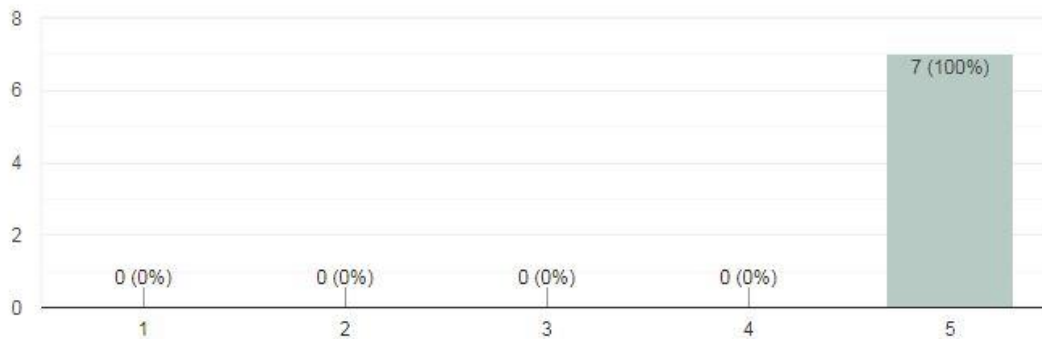
5 responses

- None
- Remember to include independent homeless youth in your outreach, perhaps through high school homelessness liaisons.
- no not that I can think of
- No, it's done an amazing job!
- Be more connected with students. Have more events that are interesting.

Application Process

Please rate your satisfaction with the admissions interview that you completed.

7 responses



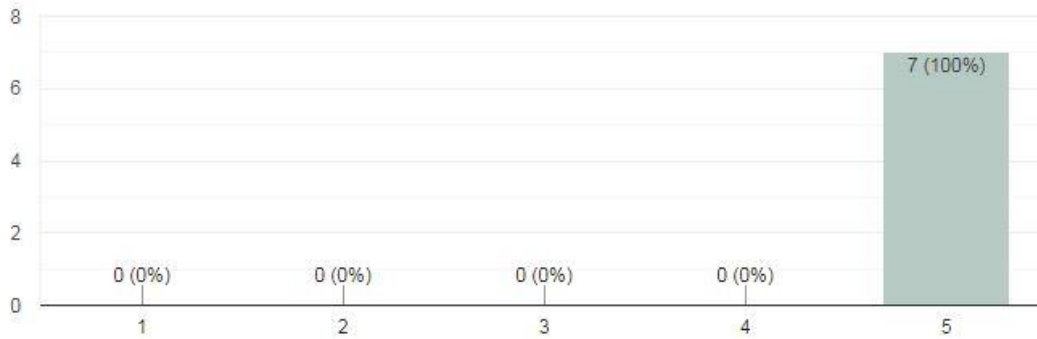
Do you have any suggestions to improve the application process?

5 responses

No
None
no not that I can think of
N/A

Please rate your overall satisfaction with the application process.

7 responses



Do you have any comments regarding the application process?

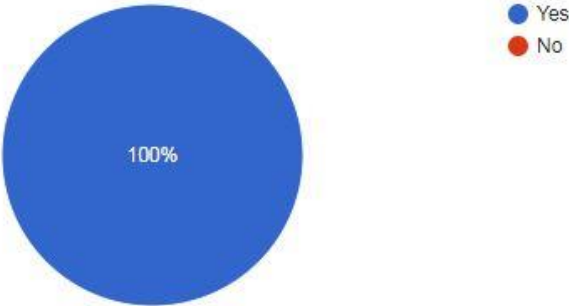
5 responses

- No
- None
- It was really easy to apply
- No it was easy to do.

Engagement & Participation

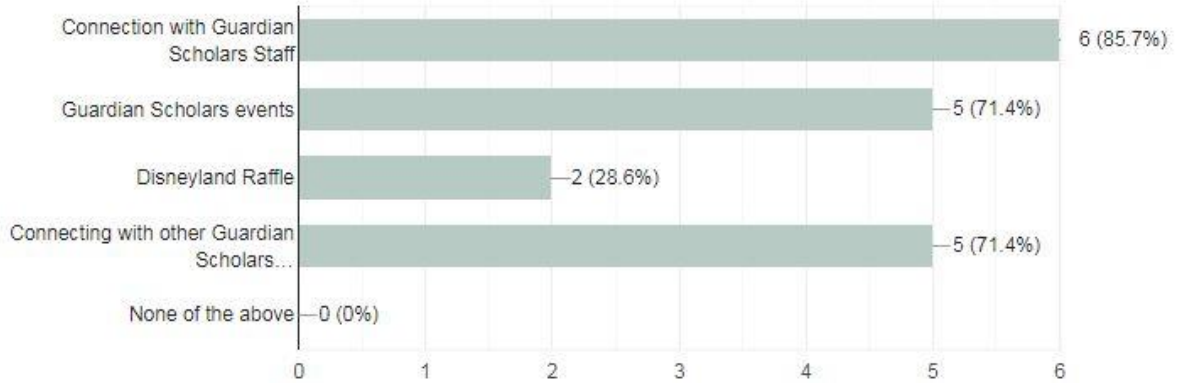
Did the admissions process prepare you for the participation requirements involved with being in the Guardian Scholars Program?

7 responses



What motivated you to participate in Guardian Scholars?

7 responses



Did you encounter any challenges while participating in Guardian Scholars?

7 responses

