



First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy  
UCLA Bruin Resource Center  
220 Westwood Plaza, Suite B44  
Box 951453, Los Angeles, CA. 90095

Feb. 18, 2014

ATTN: Cohort 2 Student Recruitment

We are delighted to invite you to recommend a talented foster youth to participate in the First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy (BGSA). To recommend a student for participation in our program, please read the information below and follow the instructions carefully.

#### *BGSA Program Overview*

The First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholars Academy is an intense pre-collegiate program that provides foster youth with the academic support, enrichment, and encouragement needed to become competitive applicants for college admission. The BGSA requires a 4-year commitment from all participants, as program staff will work with students until they graduate from the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. While in the program, students receive individualized attention and services that are tailored to their unique needs and are mentored by both staff and volunteers. Students participate in monthly Saturday Academy sessions and a 4 week residential summer program, where they engage in academic and elective classes, social and cultural activities, academic and career-related field trips, and service learning activities. Our program currently serves 27 foster youth who are 16 and 17 years of age. We are in the process of recruiting 8<sup>th</sup> graders for our second cohort of students, who will begin our program in April/May 2014.

#### *Program Eligibility*

The student you are recommending must be:

1. A Los Angeles County Foster Youth living in an out-of-home placement, with an open court case (foster, relative, group-home, guardians) \*Kin-Gap youth will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
2. In the 8th grade and on-track to graduate in spring 2014
4. Scheduled to attend one of the following High Schools in fall 2014:  
Crenshaw High, University High, Manual Arts High, Hamilton High, Palmdale High, or Pete Knight High
5. Interested in attending college

#### *Recruitment Process*

To recommend a foster youth for our program, you must complete the **student information form** that was sent with this announcement and write a **recommendation** that clearly states (a) the length of time you've known the youth, (b) a brief description of the youth's personality, character, and overall demeanor, and (c) a brief description of the youth's goals as they relate to how our program might benefit him/her. Please feel free to add any additional information that might aid our program staff in developing a sense of the recommended youth.

The **student information form** and **written recommendation** should be **submitted** to **Denise Prybylla** at Children and Family Services in Los Angeles.

**EMAIL:** Prybyd@dcfs.lacounty.gov / **Subject Line:** UCLA - BGSA Student Recommendation

**FAX:** 213-637-0036 / **ATTN:** UCLA - BGSA Student Recommendation

**MAIL:** Denise Prybylla, 3530 Wilshire Blvd., Ste 400, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Denise will forward your letter, along with other important information regarding your recommended youth, to the BGSA for review.

If you have additional questions about the recruitment process, please feel free to contact BGSA staff at: aharven@saonet.ucla.edu.

Thank you for your interest in our program!

~ *The First Star UCLA BGSA Team*