

**Guardian Scholars Program  
Los Angeles Trade Technical College  
400 West Washington Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
Phone: 213-763-3664**

### **Program**

**The Guardian Scholars Program (GSP) exists to provide support for youth who are or have been part of the California foster care system and who are enrolled for studies at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College (LATTC). The college environment is a new and different experience for virtually every student. We recognize that this is particularly true for current or former foster youth, who can sometimes experience feelings of insecurity, or of being overawed or overwhelmed by the experience. We exist to offer support and assistance in a number of very useful and reassuring ways. We have our own designated place on campus where these youth can just hang out together and share common experiences. We offer mentoring and counseling, for both academics and careers. We can help find affordable housing, provide transportation assistance, and many other services to help our youths feel comfortable in the college environment. We want these students to be able to advocate for themselves, to achieve their academic goals and get a proper start on new careers. In short, we want to use our resources to help them to succeed in every way possible.**

*Students are eligible for GSP if:*

- ✓ They have applied for admission to LATTC, or are already enrolled in the current semester
- ✓ They are currently or were formerly a part of the state's foster care system
- ✓ They are between the ages of 16 and 35

### **Services Available**

We provide a useful array of supportive and reassuring services to our students. We can assist in the following ways:

- We can help secure the "Ward of the Court Verification Letter" and/or "Proof of Dependency Letter" that is needed for the Financial Aid Application.
- We can connect students with services available from other LATTC departments and sources, including: *Counseling, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Gain/CalWORKs, EOP&S for school supplies, academic counseling, tutoring, mentoring, as well community resources for food, housing, transportation and more.*
- We can provide extensive counseling regarding class selection, registration and the establishment of a long-term educational plan. This can include advice about obtaining stackable certificates, a trade, a degree, and transferring to a four-year college or university.
- We can assist with career counseling, resume' building, and job referrals.
- We can offer the support of a GSP counselor or Peer Mentor, as needed, for personal guidance.

These individuals can be instrumental in assisting with a student's life plan development.

- We can provide assistance in finding affordable and appropriate housing. Eligible students receive referrals to a one-year housing agency program.
- We can provide assistance with transportation through discounted bus passes and help with the Tap Card application submission.

### **Long-Term Benefits**

As a result of participation in the Guardian Scholars program, we have found that our students are typically more successful in:

- Achieving their academic goals, whether that means completion of an associate degree, completion of a certificate program, or transfer to a four-year college or university.
- Developing a short- to medium-term housing plan to support their education and career goals, if they are at risk of homelessness when they enter the program.
- Developing self-advocacy skills.
- Understanding the range and availability of support resources on campus and in the community at large, as well how to successfully access them.