

# Guardian Scholars Program, Empowering Scholars Performance Management System San Francisco State University

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# How SF State GSP Began

- Xochitl and Sonja both had experience with current and former foster youth at SF State and at local non-profit organizations serving homeless and youth from disenfranchised communities
- Xochitl worked in the Educational Opportunity Program doing outreach
  - Supports first generation college and historically low income college students
  - EOP supports academic, retention and matriculation of students
- Sonja is a School of Social Work Professor
- We met at a higher education conference for former foster care youth in 2004

# Organizational Mission and History

- SF State's GSP was founded in 2005 to address the needs of former foster care youth on campus who were seeking undergraduate degrees.
- Mission: to create a system of support that will meet the academic, social, emotional, and financial needs of undergraduate students who are transitioning out of the foster care system.
- Collaboration in Student Affairs - EOP and School of Social Work
- GSP serves 90+ students each year, the majority of whom are low income, needing remediation upon entering SF State, and who would be marginally housed or homeless during the school breaks.
- Have served 194 students to date



# GSP Services

- Intensive clinical case management (MSW level staff and MSW interns)
  - Weekly meetings with Clinical Case Managers
  - “High touch” model of services
- Year-round housing and meal plans
  - Winter/summer breaks (now paid for by university housing)
  - Emergency needs
- Career Pathways Specialist – focus on career prep
- Staffing - 6.5 FTE
- Mental health therapists (2 independent contractors)

# GSP Students 2005-2017 (n=165)

- Females (70%), Males (30%)
- Ethnicity
  - African American (44%)
  - Asian American (9%)
  - Caucasian (19%)
  - Latinx (28%)
- Sexual Orientation
  - LGBTQQ (40%)
  - Straight (60%)
- Mean number of years in foster care
  - 8.41 years (S.D. 5.65)



# Theory of Change

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- Tipping Point walked us through a TOC process in 2014
- Services: Initial recruitment (applications) to exiting and beyond
- Dosage, services, outcomes, staffing
- Goal: Codify our model



# Empowering Scholars Performance Management System

- Application
- Student demographics
- Clinical Assessment (including fc history, education, employment, legal, substance use, mental health history, trauma history, etc.)
- Case management notes
- Career planning services
- Mental health services

# Empowering Scholars Performance Management System

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- Let's walk through the database!



# Empowering Scholars Performance Management System

- Current Outcomes:
  - 88% sophomore year persistence rate (64.2% nationwide)
  - 83% overall persistence rate
  - 70% six year graduation rate (59% nationwide)
  - Average annual salary of alumni: \$46,000
  - All alumni working full-time or in graduate school



# Empowering Scholars Performance Management System

- Questions?
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