



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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April 25, 2014

The Honorable Mark Stone
Chair, Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1766 (Nazarian), As Amended, April 23, 2014
Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Human Services Committee on April 29, 2014
Position: SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Stone:

The University of California (UC) is pleased to support AB 1766, which would authorize UC to participate in a pilot project establishing the University-Affiliated First Star High School Academy.

UC has consistently been supportive of efforts to assist foster youth in their transition to the University and has worked to provide this student population with the necessary tools and guidance to ensure a successful higher education experience. Most UC campuses have Guardian Scholar programs to help foster youth with their unique challenges.

Currently, the First Star UCLA Bruin Guardian Scholar Summer Academy provides roughly 25 high-school aged disadvantaged foster youth with the academic support, enrichment and encouragement needed to assist them in becoming competitive applicants for subsequent admission to two and four year colleges, including universities within the UC system. The program also provides grade-appropriate information regarding higher education and presents students with a preview of the collegiate experience.

Students in the Academy participate each summer in an intense 4-week residential immersion program. During the academic year, the Academy works individually with students and their caregivers, and students also return to campus one Saturday a month for additional educational and personal enrichment experiences.

This comprehensive introductory college immersion program offers superior individualized attention and services through a caring adult network, foster “alumni”, and extensive young-adult mentorships. The program has successfully engaged students in a variety of fun and active learning opportunities that include academic courses for college credit, independent studies, social and cultural activities, field trips, service learning and recreational activities. All services are provided at no cost for the students.

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We are happy to continue to work with First Star to provide expert resources and support that will help foster youth in the academy prepare and obtain the skills necessary to gain acceptance into college. As always, the University appreciates your consideration of our views. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Leal-Carrillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nadia" being the most prominent.

Nadia Leal-Carrillo
Legislative Director

cc: Assembly Member Nazarian
Members, Assembly Human Services Committee
President Janet Napolitano
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez