

photography mobile studio business after graduation and utilize her creative skills to photograph children in day care centers and schools. She believes that “education is one of the most valuable possessions. That is the one thing no one could take from you. Knowledge will allow you to have control of your own destiny.”



### Xi |zqpi U } {kp

CSU Fullerton, BA International Business

Patrisha graduated with a bachelor’s degree in international business. As a Guardian Scholar, Patrisha studied abroad in Spain where she had the opportunity to work in the fashion industry and sharpen her Spanish language skills. She plans to return to Spain to complete a master’s degree in business administration.

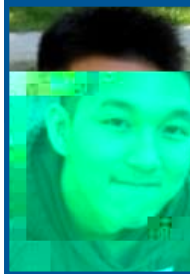


### Rn{qj Kpi vl tnz

El Camino College, AA Psychology

Jessica spent six years in the foster care and probation systems and is the mother of two young children. One of her fondest memories is when she was invited to an EOPS recognition ceremony for having a 3.5 grade point average. Jessica has been a member of the

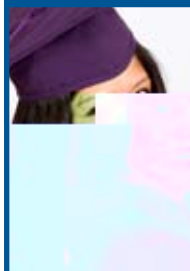
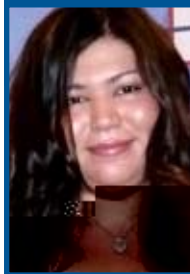
Alliance for Children’s Rights Youth Council for over four years and through the group has learned to advocate for former foster youth by using her experiences to uplift other youth. She plans to continue her education at CSU Northridge, pursuing a psychology major. She would like to become a clinical therapist and motivational speaker. She wants others to know that “higher education will allow you to access opportunities to learn about yourself and make positive changes in your family. There are resources available to you to help you achieve higher education if you want it and you are willing to work hard to obtain it.”



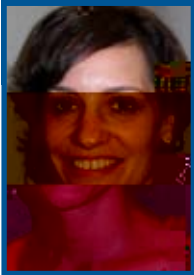
### Szf{ |i tKpi {m

Mission College, EMT-B Certificate, Fire Science

Krystal earned her EMT-B certificate and is planning to enroll in paramedic school to fulfill her dream of becoming a firefighter paramedic. She wants other youth to know that “higher education is a must in today’s



accepted to San Francisco State as a first-time freshman. She was a role model to fellow Guardian Scholars, volunteering for events and seeking out as many possibilities as possible. After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Maribel is pursuing her master's degree in social work to work with other children and youth in the foster care system.



### Pi A m(K) „i

UC Los Angeles, EdD Education

Haydee graduates this fall with a doctorate in education. Prior to entering UCLA, Haydee graduated summa cum laude from West L.A. Community College and magna cum laude from Loyola Marymount University. She majored in urban studies with an African

American studies minor in undergraduate school while raising her daughter and working full time. After graduating, Haydee pursued a career focused on program development in organizations that work with urban youth and youth who have lived in the foster care system. She was the Southern Region Policy Coordinator for California Youth Connection prior to being accepted into the UCLA EdD program. Haydee's research focuses on how the experience of race and racism has impacted young adults who have been unable to complete their high school education but have enrolled in an education/workforce development program in South Central Los Angeles. She plans to continue to work with youth to advocate for improved conditions.



### [ pi v|ntt(Li ~q

CSU East Bay, BA Sociology

Shantell graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology and was a Renaissance Scholar. She plans to take a year break and then enter a graduate program in social work to become a youth advocate and social worker. Her advice for current foster youth is "if you have a goal

or a dream, set out to achieve it. If you do not know where to start, ask someone. We have so many people out there willing to help and give us the resources to get started and achieve."



### I i u Zi ri p(Oi qnyf

CSU San Marcos, BS Human Development

Adam graduated with a bachelor's degree in human development and was an active mem-

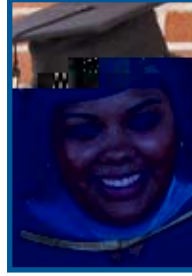


### Kpzd | qv Pve i zI

UC Davis, BA Psychology

Christina graduated with honors in psychology with a minor in religious studies. Recently, Christina found her biological family and has since reunited with her brother. Starting at the community colleges helped Christina find her direction, thanks in part to the vast amount

of resources available to her. She wants every foster youth to know they can do anything they dream of, and they are not alone. The financial hurdle of paying for college should be the least of anyone's concern. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars out there waiting for a worthy cause to support through college, one only need to apply, Christina remarks. She plans to do graduate work in clinical psychology, volunteer at community mental health clinics and work as a research lab coordinator at the University of Texas Southwestern.



### Kpi v | nt Rpv { vw

University of Southern California, MPA

Chantel graduated with a master's degree in public administration. While in graduate school, she studied abroad in Nicaragua, Hong Kong and southern China, where she focused on the topic of immigration and the Fenjiang River Revitalization Project. Chantel would

like to continue her education and earn a doctorate degree in public health. Chantel says, "It was inconceivable at first for me to think about the opportunities that were going to come my way because of my college education, but now it's finally coming true."

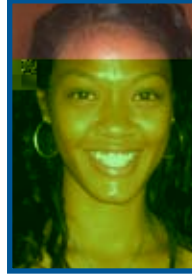


### U dppi nt Qi zI vti ,,i

Los Angeles Trade Tech, Certificate of Culinary Arts

Michael never thought he would ever attend college after high school, let alone earn a certificate in culinary arts. He plans to utilize his passion for food and healthy eating by continuing his education and eventually becoming a nutritionist. He attributes the help he received from the

Early Start to Emancipation (E-Step) Program for teaching him life skills that have helped him succeed. He has served as a YESS Peer Mentor for the last three years at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. Michael believes that "there is no better advocate for you than yourself. Ask many questions and be persistent, and it will pay off."



### Kpnt ni Rvnt

City College of San Francisco, AA Women Studies

Chelsea graduated with an associate's degree in women's studies and will transfer this fall to UC Davis. She is most proud of her accomplishment as a peer educator with Project Survive and Expect Respect San

Francisco—both are anti-rape school organizations that promote healthy relationship development for high school and college-age youth. She plans to become a schoolteacher and eventually a women's studies professor. Chelsea shares that "it doesn't matter if you know what you want to do or not, continue on with school. You will find help along the way."

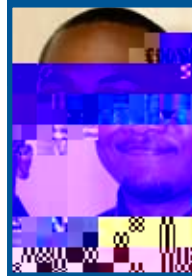


### Kq zi R { qe q,,

Springfield College, BS Human Services

Ciara graduated with a bachelor's degree in human services. She shared that, thanks to the staff and the students at the college, she had rewarding experiences that gave her the necessary tools to pursue her career goals. She plans to work with foster youth at Los

Angeles Trade Technical College where she was a transfer student and eventually earn her master's degree in human services. Ciara wants to be an example for other youth who "come from brokenness, a dysfunctional home, poverty, abuse, abandonment, disappointments, and still push through it all and achieve their dream."



### I tm Ropw

CSU East Bay, BS Biology

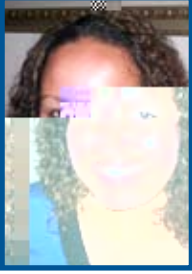
Alex graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. He feels the EOP Summer Bridge program, the Renaissance Scholars program, McNair Scholars, and his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Omega, gave him a terrific start in college. After college, Alex plans to attain a

position in a laboratory to gain experience in research and hopes to be accepted into a graduate program focusing on cell and molecular biology. He is determined to earn a PhD in biology and conduct research in cancer and Alzheimer's. He advises, "Always know that your goals are attainable, but you have to make an effort to reach for them. You are your own worst critic, but ultimately you are your own biggest fan. Think positive about yourself, and







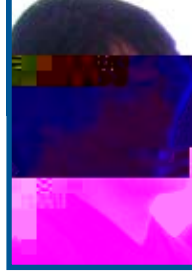


### Rhivvnh|nqzvj qz vw

CSU Sacramento, BS Social Work

Jeannette graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work and was an active member of the Bachelor's of Social Work Association and the Guardian Scholars program. She also volunteers her time with the Sacramento Food Bank's Mother-Baby Program.

Jeannette has been accepted into the graduate program in social work at CSU Sacramento where she plans to work for the Independent Living Program to assist other emancipating youth or youth in child protective services. Jeannette says, "Having an education gives you more opportunities to become successful, independent and self-sufficient. Having strong social support is very helpful while in school. My advice is to join a club, group or sport at your school where you are able to connect with other students."



### Kprnq|nzq nt-i

City College of San Francisco, AA Philoso5 o,

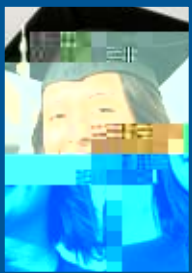


### Nvzi ( nh€ vw

CSU San Marcos, BA Sociology

Flora graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She was a member of the CSU San Marcos ACE Scholars Service, an outreach and retention program for students from foster care. Her experiences as a volunteer at San Pasqual Academy inspired her to attend

graduate school to become a social worker. Flora would like youth to know that "education is your key to success. Don't pass the door to your dreams; use that key and many doors will open for you."

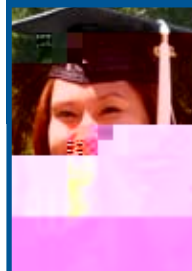
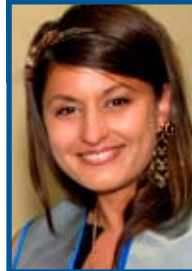


### [ |rxpi vqnc nzzi vw

Cal Poly Pomona, BA Sociology

Stephanie graduated with a bachelor's degree in sociology with an emphasis in social work and minors in ethnic and women studies. While in college, she was active in several progressive student clubs and used her leadership skills to advocate for social justice issues.

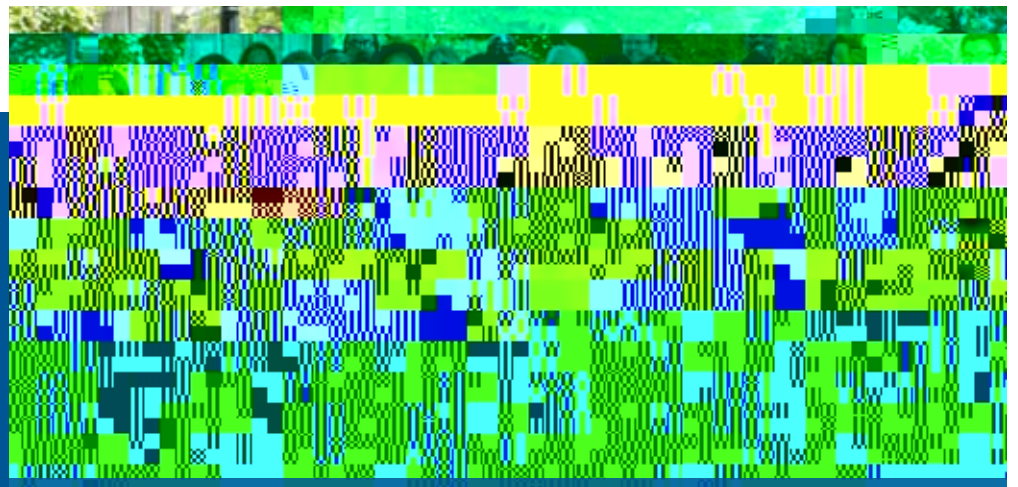
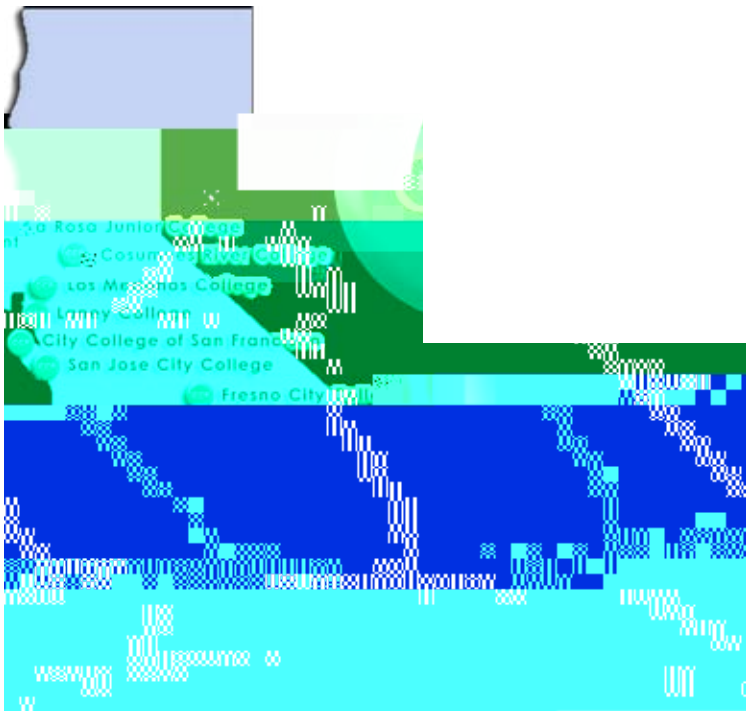
Her goal is to earn a graduate degree and become a social worker helping at-risk youth. Stephanie eventually would like to open a group home. She recommends, "Go to college to stop the cycle; you can do it. No matter how difficult it may be, never give up. It will be worth it for you and your future family."







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## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

### The Foundation for California Community Colleges

is the official organization supporting the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors, Chancellor's Office, and the entire CCC system, including 112 colleges and 72 districts, serving 2.9 million students. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the California Community Colleges.

In this capacity, the Foundation, in partnership with the California Department of Social Services and the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services, operates the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) program to help current and former foster and probation youth develop the academic and life skills essential to their successful transition into empowered adulthood. Serving youth ages 16–21 who are emancip

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**CALIFORNIA COLLEGE  
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