

# Renaissance Scholars

## Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$ 300,000

### Project Director

Name: Monique Allard  
Title: Executive Director  
Department: Student Support & Equity Programs

### Co-Project Director

Name:  
Title:  
Department:

### Co-Project Director

Name:  
Title:  
Department:

## Project Description

Renaissance Scholars is dedicated to supporting youth, who are transitioning out of foster care into higher education, by providing quality support programs and services such as tutoring, academic advising, life skills seminars, and financial assistance.

The vast majority of former foster youth do not have the support structure of a family to turn to for housing, financial assistance and emotional support. The challenge is to provide the youth with the educational opportunities and nurturing environment to make the attainment of a higher education degree a reality.

The need for aid is tremendous. Even after state and federal grants have been awarded the average Renaissance Scholar has between \$7,000 and \$9,000 in unmet financial need. Increased funding for scholarships/housing stipends will make college affordable for former foster youth.

Creating a Renaissance Scholar scholarship/housing stipend of \$5,000 for each student would provide greatly needed financial support for tuition fees, books, meals, everyday necessities, and most importantly, year round housing. Providing this financial assistance to one of the most at risk populations on campus would secure greatly needed financial support and allow the students' focus to remain on excelling academically and transitioning socially and emotionally.

Cal Poly Pomona's Renaissance Scholars requests a gift of \$250,000 from the Kellogg Legacy Project Endowment to support former foster youth access to higher education and support towards graduation. The \$250,000 grant would provide a \$5,000 annual scholarship/housing stipend to 50 Renaissance Scholars. The grant amount is requested to provide critically needed financial assistance to help meet each Scholars' unmet financial need, even after state and federal grants are awarded.

Currently the Renaissance Scholars program receives \$35,000 a year in scholarship support from the Teague Family Foundation, the Children's Fund, the Benkie Family, and the Fredrickson Family. These annual donations and endowments support 15 to 20 students with \$1,000 to \$2,000 each per year. The Kellogg Legacy scholarship/housing stipend will help close the gap on the remaining financial need for all Scholars.