Self-Presentation on the Graduate School Application

Completing a graduate school application requires a great deal of work and students often struggle with the many forms of self-representation that are a part of the process. Some applications ask for a statement of purpose in which the applicant describes his or her research plans. Other applications ask for a personal statement which details academic and career goals but (continued on page 2)

GPP Students apply for 2015

Many advanced degree programs accept applications in the fall with most admissions decisions available by the next spring. The past year the GPP helped students apply to both Masters and PhD programs in the following disciplines: public policy, education policy, social work, K-12 teaching, environmental science, public health, ecology, biochemistry, business and management, and English. The GPP assists students who had experience in California’s foster care system, however applicants may currently reside elsewhere. Using all forms of technology we can coach students through the application process at a distance. This fall’s group included students living in Iowa and Japan.

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UC Davis GPP contact: 530-752-5264
http://tinyurl.com/UCD-GPP
GOOD NEWS!

Justin Waterman (UC Davis 2011) is admitted to the MBA program at the USC Marshall School of Business for Fall 2015.
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Belkis Gonzalez (UC Berkeley 2015) is admitted to the UC Berkeley Psychology Post-Bac Program for Fall 2015.
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Mercede Ramjerdi (UC Berkeley 2012) is admitted to the MA in Public Health at the GWU Milken Institute for Public Health for Fall 2015.

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(Self-presentation on the Graduate School App continued)

in a more personal context. Some applications ask for both statements or a combination of the two. Many universities also ask applicants to write a diversity statement that will be used to decide scholarships and fellowships.

These various essays are difficult for all students but particularly so for former foster youth who are often unsure what aspects of their personal lives are relevant and acceptable on an application for a professional or advanced degree.

All of the GPP applicants have shown resilience in the face of incredible adversity, indicating a strength of character and tremendous ability to persist in graduate school. Their life stories are inspiring to admissions committees, yet they often need assistance in constructing strong and appropriate narratives that show how the obstacles they’ve overcome have helped them grow as individuals.

Destiny Garcia, PhD in Mechanical Engineering
Destiny is pursuing research in composites manufacturing and hopes to work on a research and development team in industry after graduating. Then, Ms. Garcia wants to give back to her community and return to academia as a professor of mechanical engineering.

Hen Werner, Masters in Education
After receiving her teaching credential in Spring of 2014, Ms. Werner immediately took a job as a high school social science teacher in Elk Grove, CA. In Fall of 2014, she also began a Masters in Education at UC Davis which she will complete in spring of 2015.

Teaching Cases in Training Materials section of California College Pathways website http://www.cacollegepathways.org/

Cases are teaching tools used in the fields of business, public policy, and education. They provide readers with a great wealth of insider knowledge about the "norms" and 'cultures' of organizations, institutions and business entities. The GPP cases feature former foster youth who have been successful in gaining acceptance to graduate school programs and can be used to educate students and potential applicants to think strategically about how to apply.