

Guardian Scholars Program

Ellie Cosio

Submitted by Christina Lomeli

The SBCC Guardian Scholars Program proudly announces Ellie Cosio as this year's exemplary Student of the Year! Ellie's journey is one of resilience and triumph, marked by her unwavering determination to defy the odds. As a former foster youth, Ellie returned to SBCC after an 18-year hiatus, initially pursuing cosmetology and later achieving remarkable success in Graphic Design, maintaining a flawless 4.0 GPA throughout her program. Ellie's aspirations extend beyond personal achievement; she aims to leverage her talents as a Brand Designer to advocate for marginalized youth, particularly those navigating the challenges of foster care. Having experienced the harsh realities of the system firsthand, Ellie's dedication to uplifting others is both profound and deeply personal.

Her early years were marked by instability, as she moved between various group homes from the tender age of 11 until aging out of foster care at 18. Like many in similar circumstances, Ellie found herself without a safety net upon reaching adulthood, facing the daunting prospect of homelessness. Reflecting on her experiences, Ellie candidly shares the sense of isolation and abandonment that often accompanies life in the foster care system. Yet, amid adversity, Ellie found solace in the support of mentors and the strength of her faith. These pillars of resilience empowered her to defy expectations and chart a course towards a brighter future. Today, Ellie stands as a testament to the transformative power of perseverance, embodying the qualities of a devoted mother, a loving wife, and a stellar student.

The SBCC Guardian Scholars Program is privileged to have witnessed Ellie's remarkable journey and is grateful for her invaluable contributions, including the creation of our new logo. As Ellie continues to excel academically and professionally, she serves as an inspiration to us all, embodying the spirit of resilience and determination. Congratulations, Ellie, on this well-deserved honor!