



April 11, 2011

Dear Parents and Family:

I am writing to you to introduce a unique learning program that your new USF student has been invited to apply for. The Foreword Summer Bridge Program is designed to provide a challenging and rewarding experience that will help prepare him or her to succeed as a college student. Our goal is to enable each Foreword graduate to make the most of her or his academic career at USF.

Some students graduating from high school may not feel fully prepared for the rigorous academic work required for success at USF – that’s where Foreword comes in. Each Foreword participant will have the opportunity to develop his or her skills in critical thinking, writing, math, problem solving and effective study methods and thereby gain the proficiency and confidence needed to be successful at USF.

College life can also be challenging outside the classroom. Adjusting to life as an independent adult in a strange environment full of new demands and opportunities can be overwhelming. Foreword participants become acquainted with the campus – this provides them with the strong foothold needed to avoid some of the first semester problems first year students often face. Foreword participants also have a head start on learning about how to become leaders in their USF campus community.

The academic component of the Foreword Program includes coursework in writing, math, contemporary issues in multiculturalism, information literacy and college success skills development. Current USF faculty members, librarians, and staff from Academic Support Services teach these classes. Participants receive 2 units of elective course credit for successful completion of the Foreword Program. Each student is assigned a peer mentor, a former Foreword student who has upper class standing; the peer mentors lead the cultural, social and recreational portion of the program, provide tutoring and mentoring for the duration of the program.

The Foreword program begins on Sunday, August 7, 2011 and ends after graduation on Friday, August 19, 2011. Participants must completely commit to the Foreword Program during this time – the program in effect will be their “full-time” job for these two weeks including weekends. The daily schedule begins in the early morning and, on most days, extends through the evening hours. Required activities are also scheduled over the weekend (August 13-14). We have arranged for all students to live on-campus during the program at no additional cost. Students who will be living on campus in the Fall can remain in their assigned Foreword rooms.

An invitation to apply for the program was recently e-mailed to your son or daughter and is also available online at www.usfca.edu/foreword. To apply for the program, students need to submit the completed online application as well as the online parent/family feedback form and return it



Foreword Summer Bridge Program

First Year Student Services
Academic Support Services
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415-422-6841

to us electronically with their \$100 non-refundable application fee by Wednesday June 15th, 2011 (applications and the fee must be received by this date; applications received after this date will be considered on a space available basis).

Please note – if your student is interested in Foreword, please remind them to complete the USF Rooms application. Once completed, they will see Roommate Selection. *Please advise them to not participate in Roommate Selection process.* Your student will be paired with a fellow Foreword participant by the Foreword Summer Bridge Program staff. This individual will be his/her roommate for the remainder of the school year.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Foreword Program, please contact me at 415-422-6841 or via email: lobo@usfca.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Charlene P. Lobo Soriano' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC
Associate Director, Academic Support Services/First Year Student Services