September, 2015

Dear potential graduate student applicant:

I'd like to introduce myself; my name is Sally Harvey Ph.D. The honorific at the end of my name tells you that I have already survived the higher education experience that you are either contemplating engaging in, or about to enter. Actually I have three graduate degrees but that is a story for another time. What I hope will also be important to you is that I was a foster child. When I hear or read that only 3-7% percent of foster children ever make it to college, I want to start my own campaign called "yes you can" aimed at every foster child past or present.

The reason I am sharing all this with you is that I hope to be of assistance to you as you make the big step to obtaining a graduate degree. Most of you reading this will have already gotten your Bachelor's degree or are close to obtaining it, so you already know a lot about the university culture. Like anything else, graduate school has its own set of rules and customs, and I will be available to you for questions and support as you navigate forward. In addition, graduate school requires we redefine ourselves and these kinds of transitions may be especially difficult for those of us who were foster children. We are not generally used to thinking of ourselves as part of a higher socio-economic class. After all these years (and I am retired now), I still sometimes wonder--who is this Dr. Harvey?

I will be available as a volunteer with the GPP to do everything from answer questions you may have to acting as a support system and/or mentor when you need it. I am currently mentoring a couple of graduate students and it is something I enjoy.

I am available at shharvey@ucdavis.edu for questions and support.

Sincerely,

Sally