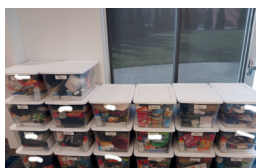
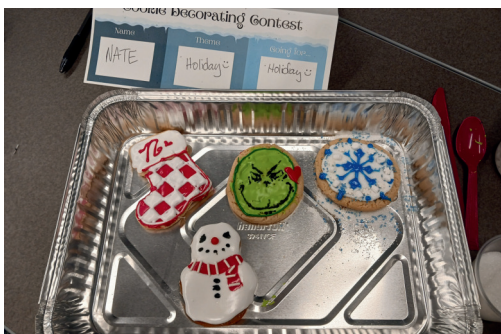


## WINTER BREAK BASH

Thanks to our wonderful program supporters, we were able to fill 45 boxes for students to receive food, winter, and household items along with gift cards in their winter break boxes. Our party included a cookie decorating contest (that was highly competitive), lots of good food, and the opening of their boxes. Depending on the degree of need, students were overwhelmed when receiving their boxes. Some had rarely to never received gifts. We customized our boxes based on known student needs and preferences. One of my favorite additions to their boxes this year was thermal base-layer shirts for cold winter walks to class. We also got them BSU sweatshirts which increase belongingness on campus.



## LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER

As we head into the holiday break from classes, I want to take a minute to reflect on the semester. The Guardian Scholars supported over 40 students, not including eligible non-participants. Eight students received financial support through program scholarships and six requested textbook assistance. There were 22 visits to our Take What You Need Closet with the average visitor receiving 5 hygiene items per visit. Students received school supplies like notebooks, folders, pens, highlighters, and calendars/planners from our office. A Sleep Seminar was hosted for those struggling with sleep rhythms. A Thanksgiving meal was shared and Winter Break Boxes capped off the semester to help fill gaps in between terms.

Does all this make a difference? The answer is YES! Whether or not that impact can be measured in academic achievement depends on the student. But students leave our office having received the highest level of individualized support available at the University. Some days encouragement and celebration are in order and other moments require students to receive hard truths about their circumstances. It is the great honor of my work to get to be a part of these student's lives as they navigate the complexities of college and their individual lives.

Your support of our program enables us to provide the tangible things that often draw our students to engage, build relationships and mobilize the intangible supports that are available to them! We can thank you enough for your contributions.

With gratitude,

Bria Zolman, Program Manager

## TEXTBOOK ASSISTANCE

We introduced textbook assistance this semester with funding through the Women of Beneficence grant. In total we fielded six textbook assistance requests. The average amount requested was \$430, with requests ranging from \$295 to \$670. We awarded a total of \$2,456 in textbook assistance for the Fall Semester.

## THANKSGIVING GRAB & GO

Students were invited to attend our annual Thanksgiving meal with the Independent Cardinals & TW@BSU students. This has become one of our most popular events because of the delicious food and ability to take to-go servings to enjoy over break. Some of our students will not have a Thanksgiving meal without this event. It has become a fun program tradition!

## SCHOLARSHIP SEASON

The Guardian Scholars supports 8-10 program scholarships of \$2,500 annually. Our applications open on February 1st and top candidate interviews take place in April. We will have at least 4 open scholarships for new students available this year! Financial contributions to the program fund our student scholarships.

[bsu.edu/guardianscholars](https://bsu.edu/guardianscholars)