Dear #NewDon:

Congratulations on your admission to the University of San Francisco! It is with great pleasure that I invite you to apply for the Muscat Scholars Program (MSP). This exciting program for first-generation college students and students invested in starting their college career early begins two weeks prior to Orientation and is designed to provide a challenging and rewarding experience by helping you learn what it takes to succeed at USF. We want to assist you in setting high academic expectations for yourself, to help you build learning skills, and to enhance your understanding of how best to maximize your strengths.

We also want you to have fun, make new friends, and develop a network of support that will be essential to you as a student at USF. One of MSP’s defining features is its dynamic community. You will be assigned a peer mentor, a staff mentor, a Muscateer and meet MSP program alumni during the program. If you’re worried about coming to USF without friends, we have you covered!

MSP’s other defining feature is the academic preparation. You’ll be taking courses in writing, math, contemporary issues, and information literacy taught by some of USF’s most engaging faculty and staff members. You’ll also participate in workshops about learning styles, USF resources, and time management. When you’re not in class, you’ll be engaged in Tribe meetings, discussion groups, hands-on learning exercises, and a variety of on- and off-campus activities. You will receive 2 units of elective course credit for successful completion of this summer program.

MSP continues during the school year with you taking two required courses: Psychology of Success in the Fall and Career Exploration in the Spring. These two classes, along with two off-site retreats on will give you the opportunity to develop a plan and a program for the transition from college to career. Throughout the year, we will have socials and gatherings to help continue to build community and foster connections.

The Muscat Scholars Program begins on Sunday, August 7, 2016 and ends after graduation Friday, August 19, 2016. The program is, in effect, your “full time” job for these two weeks. The daily schedule begins in the morning and, on most days, continues through the evening hours. Required activities are also scheduled over the weekend (August 13-14). We will be living in Hayes Healy residence hall for the duration of the program. If you'll be living on campus in the Fall, you will remain in your assigned MSP rooms. Food is also included during your residence in the program.

We do hope you’ll join us. If you are interested in applying to Muscat Scholars Program, go online and submit your application via our website: www.usfca.edu/Muscat. You must submit it online to us by May 1, 2016. We accept applications as we receive them, so get
your application in early! Applications received after the date will be considered on a space available basis. Upon acceptance to MSP, you will be asked to pay a $100 program fee.

Please note – Because MSP students are housed together, we ask that applicants for MSP not choose a roommate at this time, and you will be matched with a roommate from MSP. If you have chosen a roommate, and the roommate would like to attend MSP as well, you are welcome to both submit an application. If you do not have a roommate, you will be matched with one from MSP.

If you have questions or would like to talk with someone about the Muscat Scholars Program, please contact me at (415) 422-6841, via email: lobo@usfca.edu or via Twitter: @itweetusf. I am very much looking forward to greeting you on campus when you join us in August!

Sincerely,

Charlene P. Lobo Soriano, Ed.D., NCC
Program Director, Muscat Scholars Program
Academic Success Coach
Associate Dean, Student Academic Services for Branch Campuses