

**Biola University's - SURGE Scholarship  
Students of Under-Represented Groups of Ethnicity  
2006 - 2007 Scholarship Application**

Biola University's long-standing mission has been to prepare and equip students for leadership to serve the Christian community and society at large. In keeping with its mission, the University desires to provide a program designed to recruit and retain students of color. We believe these students will make distinctive contributions and provide cultural enrichment both inside and outside the University.

**Who is eligible?**

Students whose ethnicity is considered to be Hispanic/Latino, African American, or Native American and have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or above. The SURGE Scholarship committee will select students who best meet the application requirements and who demonstrate academic strength and leadership qualities.

**Application process**

Students desiring consideration for the 2006-2007 SURGE Scholarship must submit this completed application, as well as responses to the questions listed below, **no later than February 15, 2006**. A student *must have completed the admissions process to Biola by January 15 to be considered*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(city) (state) (zip code)

Home church: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic background: \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper. Your answers for all five questions **should not exceed a total length of two pages** (responses must be typed).

1. Describe how you have demonstrated leadership within your ethnic community. Include activities that have helped shape your ethnic identity. If no involvement, why not?
2. Please share about the beauty of your culture and how you embrace it.
3. What has been the biggest barrier to you as a person of color? How did you (or what are you doing) to overcome this hindrance?
4. What is your vision to serve your ethnic/cultural community after graduation from college?
5. How do you hope the "Cultural Encounters" program will help you develop as a person? (Please read the attached flyer on the "Cultural Encounters" program).

*"I am willing to commit to participating in the Cultural Encounters program. I understand that I am required to attend a series of reconciliation chapels, bimonthly seminars, and the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation conference during my first year at Biola if selected for this scholarship. I realize that I must maintain a 3.0 grade point average at Biola to renew the scholarship each additional year. I understand that my scholarship will be coordinated with other state, federal, and Biola University financial aid and that I may not receive a Community Service Scholarship and SURGE."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

January 2006

Dear Applicant,

As you continue your college plans, we want to make sure you are aware of an opportunity available to you through our scholarship programs. We are excited to offer the SURGE (Students of Under-Represented Groups of Ethnicity) Scholarship developed and designed to attract and retain students of color.

The scholarship ranges from \$4,000 to \$6,500, with the possibility of renewal three additional years in attendance (maximum 4 years), if the student continues to fulfill the requirements stated in the program. The scholarship is based on the application materials and grade point average. Financial need will also be a factor in determining the amount of the award. The first year experience is highlighted by required participation in “Cultural Encounters” a multicultural leadership program where all SURGE recipients enjoy bi-monthly group seminars and interaction with Biola faculty and administrators.

The scholarship application deadline is February 15, 2006. In order to qualify for the SURGE Scholarship, you must have completed your admission application to the University by January 15, 2006. A scholarship committee will review applications in February and recipients will be notified soon after March 1<sup>st</sup>. As with all financial aid at Biola, the SURGE Scholarship is coordinated with state, federal, and other University aid.

Biola University places an emphasis on striving to increase ethnic representation and trusts this scholarship program will assist to maintain this balance across the campus community. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the SURGE Scholarship by calling (562) 903-4752.

Sincerely,

Carla Juarez  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions

*\* SURGE Scholarship awards may not be combined with a Community Service Scholarship.*

## **"Cultural Encounters"** **Multicultural Student Development Program**

Cultural Encounters is a one-year Multicultural Student Leadership Program linked with the SURGE (Students of Under-Represented Groups of Ethnicity) scholarship award. The purpose of the program is to equip students from diverse backgrounds to better serve the Biola community and society at large by exposing them to the basic concepts of leadership, diversity and multiculturalism.

The format of the program consists of workshops (which meet every other week), reconciliation chapels twice a month and participation in the annual Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation conference (SCORR) held during the spring semester. The conference brings students from diverse backgrounds and from various Christian colleges/universities together for one weekend of fellowship, dialogue, education and celebration.

Some of the program's objectives include enabling students to be effective in their roles through:

- A. Being exposed to basic principles of diversity.
- B. Enhancing self-understanding.
- C. Creating an environment in which an open, cross-cultural and multi-ethnic dialogue can occur.
- D. Learn about cultures other than their own through discussions, video viewing and interactions with members of the University community.
- E. To develop interpersonal communication skills for successful cross-cultural exchange in preparation for life in a more culturally heterogeneous, global, and increasingly mobile environment.

The program starts at the beginning of the fall semester and goes until the middle of May. Cultural Encounters is a zero unit certificate program. Participants will be evaluated by their program director at the end of each semester and will receive either a pass or fail grade. Successful completion of all program requirements will be designated on the participant's official university transcript. Failure to complete all program requirements may jeopardize the participant's scholarship renewal.

Biola is an institution committed to equipping Christian men and women to make an impact on the world for Jesus Christ. We believe that spiritual leadership and sensitivity to cultural diversity is key in fulfilling this mission in the world.