

"Cultural Encounters"

Multicultural Student Development Program

Cultural Encounters is a one-year multicultural student leadership program linked with the LEAD 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 (held 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.

The program's objective is to enable 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. Learning about other cultures through discussions, videos, and interactions with members of the university community.
- E. Developing interpersonal communication skills for successful cross- cultural exchange in preparation for life in a culturally heterogeneous, global, and increasingly mobile environment.

The program starts at the beginning of the fall semester and ends in mid-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 to fulfilling this mission in the world.