

"In 1990, during the opening of a new era for American Kosen-Rufu, I formed the SGI-USA Culture Department. This was because I firmly believed that producing promising capable people with faith and intellect would be vital for the development of America. 1999 message to the Culture Department Daisaku Ikeda

"First Soka Gakkai President Tsunesaburo Makiguchi once said, "Education cannot be successful without the most excellent, outstanding human resources. Education is the highest, most difficult skill and art of human life, for it is directed toward the most precious object in the world, that is, the supreme treasure called life." 2001 message to the Educators Division Daisaku Ikeda

"Significant is the mission that you carry on using your virtues of wisdom and courage. It is my earnest hope that you, the members of the Culture Department of the SGI-USA, will manifest your unparalleled potential in your respective fields of endeavor with the effectiveness of more than one thousand other individuals, carrying out successful activities in your individual battlefields of Kosen-Rufu as a "practice-first general of wisdom." 2006 message to the Culture Department Daisaku Ikeda

National Leaders:

Culture Department

Mike Curtis

Amanda Rivera

Academic Division

Lisbeth Gant-Britton

Masa Watanabe

Educators Division

Art Hoover

Jonetta Leek

Healing Arts Division

Keith Shulman

Rochelle Wilson

Legal Division

Mike Bynum

Wanda Flowers Peacock

Contact Information:

SGI-USA

606 WILSHIRE BLVD.

SANTA MONICA, CA 90401

WWW.SGI-USA.ORG

SGI-USA

CULTURE

DEPARTMENT

ACADEMIC DIVISION

EDUCATORS DIVISION

HEALING ARTS DIVISION

LEGAL DIVISION

WWW.SGI-USACULTUREDEPARTMENT.ORG



SGI-USA
Soka Gakkai International-USA
Buddhist Association for Peace, Culture & Education

What is the SGI-USA Culture Department?

When SGI President Daisaku Ikeda came to the United States in February of 1990, he boldly created a new SGI-USA organization. One aspect of this new beginning was the establishment of the Culture Department, a group formed to encourage members involved in elementary, secondary and higher education, the healing arts, and legal professions. Compassionate doctors, humanistic educators, and lawyers who side with justice are key components in our quest to create individual happiness and a peaceful world. The goal of the Culture Department is to nurture promising, capable people of faith and intellect who exemplify humanistic leadership, embracing wisdom, hope, and compassion.

“The power of culture may be hard to detect at times, but it is a fundamental force since it transforms the human heart. Political and economic developments may be flashier and appear on the news more often, but culture and education are the forces that actually shape the age. We must not make the mistake of looking at shallow waters that bubble noisily over the rocks; the deep currents are even more important to know the true nature of the river.”

*SGI President Daisaku Ikeda
(Faith into Action, pp.259-60)*

First printing: September 2008

Who are Culture Department Members?

Academic: university/college lecturers, professors or other faculty; academic scientists, researchers, archivists; administrators with academic appointments, librarians with advanced academic degrees; students in graduate school.

Educators: teachers (preK-12), educational assistants, administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, therapists, librarians, nurses; students pursuing education degrees.

Healing Arts: practitioners, including those that are studying or training, in a health care profession which either requires their members to be registered, licensed or certified by their respective state; *or* has a governing board that oversees standard guide-lines of practice, and/or provides education that is accredited by their respective state; *or* works together with regulated health care professions.

Legal Division: anyone licensed or employed to assist in the legal profession including lawyers, paralegals, legal clerks, legal assistants, court reporters, judges, elected officials with legislative functions; students in law school.



Vision Statement:

The SGI-USA Culture Department will foster a steady stream of promising capable people of faith and intellect, who are advancing joyfully and courageously along the path of mentor and disciple toward a hope-filled and victorious era of American *Kosen-Ruffu*.

Mission Statement:

- ❖ To show actual proof as invaluable individuals in our respective professions and thereby gain trust and respect in our communities and American society.
- ❖ To advance side by side in harmony with fellow SGI members as we strive to study Buddhism more deeply, protect the Mystic Law, and to introduce the wisdom and humanism of Buddhism, the SGI and President Ikeda into society.
- ❖ Together with our mentor, encounter as many people as possible, engaging in warmhearted dialogue that creates heart-to-heart bonds, thereby leading to a greater expansion of the humanistic values of Nichiren Buddhism.
- ❖ Provide encouragement in faith that enables Culture Department members and youthful successors of the Culture Department to solidify the mentor disciple relationship and discover and fulfill their unique mission in society.