

**STUDENT DIVISION
BLAZE BRIGHT NEW HORIZONS FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS
NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM THE STUDENT DIVISION LEADERS**

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The dawn of American kosen-rufu has arrived! The Bodhisattvas of the Earth have emerged in this most significant year in the history of kosen-rufu. What kind of history can we create in this year — a year that will help determine the rest of this new millennium? What kind of SGI organization do we envision 100 years, 200 years, 1000 years from now? With these questions in mind, we are pioneering a new era of kosen-rufu together with SGI President Ikeda.

Society is in constant need of new ideas and a new philosophy. If we look at history, it has always been the youth—in particular, university students—who brought new ideas that propelled society forward. It is the mission of the student division members to blaze bright new horizons for the sake of others. Let this year, “Year of Total Victory for the New Century,” be the year the student division takes the lead in all endeavors for kosen-rufu as disciples of President Ikeda.

As you know, Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, will be dedicated on May 3 and on August 24 it will welcome 100 students from all across the globe for its first class. This is such a significant time to be in the student division. President Ikeda will be instilling his heart directly into the youth with the expectation that we continue on the path of the lion-king and create an ideal organization here in the United States that can lead the world. Each of us will play an important role, not only this year but far into the future — not only in the United States, but throughout the world. It is up to each of us to realize that mission, asking: “What can I do? What can I contribute? What is the mountain I need to climb now?” We hope this year we will ask ourselves these questions.

In March, the youth will be commemorating March 16, Kosen-rufu Day, by sponsoring district introductory meetings. The members of the student division should take the lead in organizing these meetings and bringing friends so that we can share this great philosophy and the power of chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. Let's create an atmosphere in which each person can shine and display his or her unique abilities.

In the summer, the youth will sponsor four-divisional SGI Family Youth Festivals in each zone. We can display our creative ideas and grow together with the seeking spirit to receive training in our lives. Through these festivals, let's create unprecedented unity.

In September, let's take the lead in promoting the importance of a college education, as well as Soka University of America, by sponsoring “University Fairs” together with the Junior High and High School Divisions. We will be able to have booths in which we share with potential college students the ins and outs of campus life, how to complete an application form, how to write personal essays, etc.

Throughout the year we would like to focus on studying the Gosho, chanting to eliminate the negative influence of the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood and challenging ourselves to participate in Soka Spirit activities.

As part of our Soka Care activities, we would like to focus on home visitation,

propagation and raising student division leaders, as well as continuing the amazing growth in campus clubs. Let's also challenge our fellow student division members to conduct monthly introductory meetings on campus and, toward March 16, lead the youth in Soka Care and propagation. As disciples, this is our mission. As practitioners of the Daishonin's Buddhism, this is our vow. Let's ask ourselves throughout the year, "How can I support and encourage my friends today?"

Nichiren Daishonin states, "From the time that I was born until today, I have never known a moment's ease; I have thought only of propagating the daimoku of the Lotus Sutra" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 965).

And President Ikeda stated in the poem "The Road to World Peace, A Garden for all Humanity" the following:

"The Buddhist Law will spread for
Ten thousand years and more, for all eternity"
This profound teaching of the Daishonin
Is one we must never forget.
For its our mission.

As the above Goshō passage and poem from President Ikeda state, it is our mission to spread the Law. We are determined to create a natural movement of genuine friendship together and share this Buddhism. This is our time. Let's rise to the occasion and have no regrets. Let's win over ourselves today, here and now, and experience the real happiness of sharing with one another.

We look forward to working together with you to realize our dreams, experience joy and everlasting friendship and establish an ideal SGI organization based on the heart of President Ikeda.