

**PERSPECTIVE ON ADMISSION TO SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA,
ALISO VIEJO
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This past March 15, all students who applied to Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo were sent admission response letters. A total of 120 students will take their place in the first class of SUA, AV.

On behalf of the SGI-USA Jr. High and High School Divisions, I'd like to wholeheartedly congratulate all of you.

But for every student who received an admission letter in March, there were a number of others who were not admitted. Many of you are undoubtedly disappointed. You may be questioning the value of having applied to SUA, or whether being rejected somehow indicates there's something wrong with your faith.

The great dream of kosen-rufu can only be achieved when each of us creates value as we live our lives.

SGI President Ikeda constantly reminds us that there is a purpose in all of us being born. He says: "In this universe filled with countless stars and planets, you were born here, on this earth, at this time. That is definitely not an accident. There is a meaning to your having been born. You were born because it was a good thing for you to be born. You have a mission that only you can fulfill" (Nov. 10, 2000, *World Tribune*, p. 7).

We create value by finding and fulfilling our own missions. A strong determination and the willingness to take action are all that is required to fulfill our dreams. Fulfilling our mission does not require that one necessarily attend SUA.

The roles that learning and education play in changing the course of humanity are more profound than many of us realize.

I recently read a speech President Ikeda gave back in 1973 that really opened my eyes to SUA's profound mission. President Ikeda discussed the Great Renaissance (a period during the 14th and 15th centuries in Europe that saw a great revival in the arts, music, philosophy, literature and science).

President Ikeda traced the roots of the Renaissance to a revival in learning that took place centuries earlier, in the Middle Ages. He said: "Learning, when deepened and developed at its most profound level, will eventually become the great source of culture.... Further, learning must have humanity as its basis from beginning to end" (*Proposals for the 21st Century*, p. 8).

I believe that in establishing SUA, President Ikeda is making a cause for the flowering of a new worldwide Human Renaissance. We are at the pioneering stages of this process. I believe that this is the reason why it is important for each of us to support SUA at this crucial time.

By making the effort to apply, those students who weren't admitted by SUA this year made causes to support this new Human Renaissance. No matter what happens, please continue to devote yourselves to humanistic learning.

President Ikeda puts it best when he writes: "Not attending the college of your choice is certainly disappointing. But, in the long run, graduating from a particular school matters little.

"Academic background isn't everything; those who start out under difficult circumstances and go on to become people of character can be sources of hope and inspiration to many. The essential point is that you continue to study...the purpose of study is not which university you attend but to master something that contributes to your self-enrichment" (*The Way of Youth*, pp. 67-68).