

DEEPEN YOUR NETWORK OF TRUST SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE STUDENT DIVISION CONFERENCE

My sincerest congratulations on the holding of your SGI-USA Student Division Conference! All of you are gifted youth upon whose shoulders rest the responsibility for global kosen-rufu. Your development and growth are truly reassuring and make me proud.

The eternal mission of the SGI student division is to advance as the vanguard of kosen-rufu with new thinking and fresh action. How great is your mission as leaders and pioneers of the new century, of a new era for America, to always stand by and protect the people! While you are young, please cultivate abundant intellect and passion. With faith as your foundation, please pray for the happiness of your friends and discuss with them profound philosophy, thereby expanding and deepening your network of trust and mutual understanding.

Regarding the Lotus Sutra, Nichiren Daishonin wrote, "It is like the lion king, the monarch of all the creatures that run on the ground" (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 929). A lion has a heart of invincible courage. I hope that each of you, members of the student division, without a single exception, will be a lion king, a matchless hero who commands the respect of all! Challenge yourselves in all aspects of life and surmount with confidence whatever lies before you, thus creating a history of your own, a record of great triumphs!

Every day I pray earnestly that my beloved student division members live gallantly as standard-bearers of America's new century.