

Scholarships awarded to 16 minority students

■ **TUITION:** The program is intended to provide greater incentive to attend graduate school

By Jean M. Bond
Higher Education Reporter

The University has given 16 minority students Target of Opportunity Laurel Awards — full-tuition scholarships encouraging them to pursue a graduate education, said Jiffin Arboleda, graduate student affairs coordinator.

The students will receive full-tuition support for as many as 15 terms, said Steadman Upham, dean of the graduate school. The award has supported around 165 students since its inception in 1991, he said.

The award targets African-American, American-Indian, Chicano and Asian-American students, said Linda Liu, multicultural affairs advisor.

"This is one of the only [minority] scholarships to include Asian-American students," she said.

Asian-American students are often not considered to be under-represented in universities because they are represented proportionally in fields such as science and medicine, Upham said.

"But if you look at it across the board, they are under-represented," he said.

The seven graduate and nine undergraduate students were selected for their academic

records and community service. "These students are outstanding, but not just academically," Liu said. "They're very well-rounded."

Recipients volunteered in the community, working with the American Red Cross, on a telephone crisis line and with track and field programs, Arboleda said.

In selecting recipients, students' future educational plans were also considered, Upham said.

"We want to know how they see themselves continuing their education," he said.

Undergraduates who receive the award are eligible to receive it again if they attend graduate school at the University. "We would ask them to reapply, but the fact that they've already received it would be in their favor," he said.

In addition to the tuition award, recipients will work in the Office of Multicultural Affairs as mentors to incoming students of color, Liu said. They will act as a big brother or big sister to new students to help them adjust to life on campus, Arboleda said.

The mentor program also provides emotional support and connections with other students of color, said recipient Jasmine Rose, a junior pursuing a degree in International Studies.

"It's really a boost to get this kind of acknowledgement," Rose said.

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Discussion: Education is key to ending oppression

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sity, Lewis said this is not true.

"No matter where I go, shit happens, especially in Eugene," she said. "It's basically hell."

Participants agreed that a solution is education, despite a society of oppression.

"We need to educate ourselves," said facilitator Stephanie Carnahan. "If we use

our own power, we'll exponentially increase awareness."

However, through education, people will also discover their own faults, and they need to learn from them, she said.

"We were born into a racist society," she said. "We are all oppressors in some way, and that's hard to swallow. We all have to accept where we're coming from."



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