

BRIDGES

The Black Chamber of Commerce Of Orange County Education Fund (BCEF)

Need help building your professional network of supporters?
Need financial assistance after spending all \$\$\$ on textbooks?

Selected participants will receive:

- Year-long interaction with member of BCEF
- Opportunities to establish productive networks with members of the business, civic, education and religious organizations of Orange County
- Reimbursement for course textbooks*
- Recognition for academic achievements

Application and nomination forms can be easily obtained:

- From a current BCEF member or local college Financial Aid Office,
- From OCBlackChamber.org website (Ed Fund)
- By contacting Chuck Moore, CSU Fullerton Irvine Campus, at 657-278-1789
- By requesting through email, cmoore@exchange.fullerton.edu.

Completed application materials, official transcript, and two nominations must be received no later than March 1, 2011.

- Book reimbursements limited to \$500 per year, student must maintain 'good academic standing' within semester to receive this benefit.
- Family members or relatives of current BCOC members are not eligible to receive financial reimbursement for textbooks, but may be selected to participate in all other features of the BRIDGES program.
- BRIDGES scholars must attend Leadership Development seminars to receive all program benefits.

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Book Reimbursement Incentive & Degree Guidance-Endurance Support

BRIDGES MISSION:

Members of BCOCEF will serve as mentors to African-American college students to increase graduation rates and support development of entrepreneurial and business-related skills.

How BCEF achieves these goals:

- Providing one-on-one personal contact with students enrolled at Orange County WASC-accredited colleges and universities,
- Providing networking, professional opportunities and internships with leaders within the African-American business community.
- Providing a structured Business Development Leadership seminar series involving current professional in varied fields.
- Providing financial reimbursement for class textbooks (maximum of \$500 per year), to students who actively participate in this mentoring program.

College attendance in itself expands the social, intellectual, leadership and entrepreneurial skills of students. The achievement of baccalaureate degrees can be proven to guarantee an increase in the economic attainment, over a lifetime of earning, for those who complete this process. Persons who obtain these degrees are more likely to assume leadership roles in our business, civic and political organizations.

BRIDGES is designed to support program participants promoting close interaction between program participants and volunteer mentors who will guide students to use academic skills in the business environment.

BRIDGES is designed to improve academic persistence (a student's will to continue) and graduation (completion of bachelor's degree study) rates of students who participate in activities initiated under the auspices of this project.

Mentors have completed at least a bachelor's degree and share skills used to obtain their degree(s) with BRIDGES participants in addition to expanding contacts within their professional fields.

Program Selection Criteria:

Due to the intensive nature of this program, selected participant numbers will be limited to five scholars per year selected from the applicant pool.

- Priority consideration will be given to applicants who have declared degrees directly applicable to Business Administration or its various components (Accounting, Finance, Marketing, etc.), science, mathematics or information technology.
- Students with other majors are encouraged to apply and spend time in their essay displaying how they can use the skills within their major in the business environment.

Eligibility:

- African-American students, or students from other ethnic backgrounds who plan to work within the African-American community,
- Who have completed their freshman or first year at any one of the four-year colleges listed below, or
- Those who plan to transfer to a university from one of the selected community colleges.

BCOC will accept applicants from the following community colleges and universities during the 2011 academic year:

–Cal State Fullerton –Chapman University –Concordia University –Cypress College
–Fullerton College –Golden West College –Irvine Valley College –Orange Coast College
–Saddleback College –Santa Ana College –Santiago Canyon College, –Soka University
–UC Irvine

- Establish one-on-one relationships with selected students,
- Provide five (5) Business Leadership Development seminars per year,
- Involve selected scholars in "leadership roles" in other activities sponsored by BCEF, and
- Engage scholars as mentors, monitor academic performance of students, and submit three (3) written status reports with details about these contacts made each semester for one full year.

Submit essay, application, two letters of recommendation (school/employer), and copy of most recent academic transcripts, official transcript must be received prior to selection, unofficial transcripts may be submitted with application to: **BCOC, 2323 N. Broadway, Suite 302, Santa Ana, CA, 92706**. All materials must be received by March 1, 2011. Notification of selection will occur no later than March 3, 2011.

Successful student applicants and mentors will be formally 'matched' during BCOCEF BRIDGES event March, 18, 2011.

Contact Chuck Moore, CSU Fullerton Irvine Campus, 657-278-1789 cmoore@exchange.fullerton.edu

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Last Name, First Initial:

2011 BCEF BRIDGES APPLICATION

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (M.I.) _____

Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Name of College or University Attended 2010-2011: _____

Name of College or University for 2011-2012: _____

Name and Location of High School Attended: _____

Did you receive high school diploma? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, year: _____

Military Service? Yes ___ No ___ If Yes: Branch _____ Term: _____

Current or Planned College Major: _____ Minor: _____

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____ Professional School Plans: Y N

Place 'X' on appropriate spaces: ___ Semester ___ Quarter ___ Male ___ Female
___ Single ___ Married ___ Reside in dorms ___ Reside with Family
___ Share Apartment ___ Own transportation ___ Use Public Transportation

Number of Dependents other than applicant: _____ Ages of Dependents: _____

Total Number of Transferable Units or Current College 'Credits': _____

How many units do you plan to carry during the fall semester? ___ spring _____

Current College Grade Point Average: _____ Number of weekly work hours: _____

Number of work hours per week _____ Position: _____

Place of employment _____ How long? _____

Required Essay: Each applicant must provide on a separate sheet, in 500 or fewer words, a typewritten answer to two of the following prompts:

- What African-American strengths will the nation need during this decade?
- Describe your role as a mentor for a younger student, illuminate successes and failures.
- How will you use skills acquired in your college education to enter the business world?