



Soka University of America

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July 18, 2006

Soka University of America receives 5-year accreditation from WASC

On May 3, 2001, Soka University, Aliso Viejo was dedicated as a new private, non-profit liberal arts college founded upon the Buddhist principles of peace, human rights and the sanctity of life.

On May 22, 2005, 100 seniors from Soka University's Class of 2005 marched across stage to receive SUA, Aliso Viejo's first diplomas – an 83% graduation rate in four years.

On June 16-17, the Western Association of Schools & Colleges Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (WASC) granted Soka University of America accreditation for five years.

SUA's Provost and Accreditation Liaison Officer, Tomoko Takahashi, Ed.D., noted that it is a remarkable achievement for a new university to become regionally accredited so quickly after the required graduation at a new campus was achieved. "Even though our master's program in Calabasas has graduated ten classes, May 2005 was the first graduating class for our new four-year liberal arts campus in Aliso Viejo. We're very proud that WASC has granted a five-year accreditation to Soka University of America."

In the official accreditation letter, WASC Executive Director Ralph Wolf wrote that WASC skipped the Candidacy vote for SUA and proceeded directly to Initial Accreditation. Among SUA's achievements, he noted, was that "The list of graduate school acceptances by members of the first graduating class is impressive."

All 32 SUA seniors who decided to attend graduate school were accepted by such schools as the London School of Economics, Yale, Columbia University Teachers College, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown, Vanderbilt, UC Berkeley, UCLA, UCSD, UCI, UCSB, USC, Claremont Graduate University, and University of Hawaii Law School. Other students have accepted jobs or are pursuing additional training.

SUA President, Daniel Y. Habuki, PhD, smiled when asked what the next milestone might be for the university. "Every fine university owes its reputation to the achievements of its students," he said. "SUA students have a heart for creating peace, and I'm looking forward to seeing what our graduates will achieve to help make this world and their communities a better place. Soka means 'to create value' – and that will be our most important milestone."

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