

January 22, 2002

Dear Sir or Madam:

On Saturday April 20, 2002, the Socially Together and Naturally Diverse (STAND) chapter of the University of Southern California will host its second annual conference. We request the presence of a class of your students to participate in the conference.

STAND's goal is to help the students successfully conduct themselves in a diverse high school environment. We hope to instill in them an understanding that there exist certain fundamental human rights that extend beyond the boundaries of gender, race, and socio-economic status. At the same time, we highly value the opinions of all high school participants and wish to offer them a forum for discussing such opinions. We are committed to fostering a sense of the complexity of the discourse concerning diversity, as well as a basis of compassion from which they can guide themselves as they learn about others.

Our conference will consist of three sessions: 1) Race and Media; 2) Gender, Sexuality, and Hate Crimes; and 3) Sweatshop Labor. Each session will be divided into a discussion component and a presentation component, which may include the use of a panel discussion, short film, lecture, role-playing games, or theatrics. USC students will facilitate the discussions and USC students and faculty, as well as community leaders, will conduct the presentations. We encourage you to incorporate these issues into your curriculum so that the conference will be a natural progression of an ongoing discussion. We have enclosed information sheets about each topic that can be passed out to students.

So that your students will be thoughtfully engaging these three topics prior to our conference date, we request that all student participants submit creative material that explore at least one of the three core issues. Possible media for the creative material can be poetry, testimonials, short stories, artwork, or essays. At the conference, we will provide each of your students with a publication comprised of their submissions as a memento of their experience.

The STAND conference will also provide information for your students about applying to the University of Southern California. We are inviting an admissions representative to attend our conference for the express purpose of answering any questions your students may have concerning the applications and admissions process at USC.

We request the kindness of your response. Please find enclosed the registration packet for our conference. A checklist is provided to assist you in the registration process. If you have any questions about our organization or our conference, please contact Cecilia Mo at (213) 764-1450 or Kathleen Custodio at (323) 732-4147. We look forward to seeing your students in April!

Sincerely,

Cecilia Mo
Co-Director of Leadership

Kathleen Custodio
Co-Director of Leadership

Note the following change in address and phone number:
University of Southern California
Student Union 202
Los Angeles, CA 90089
(213) 764-1450 or (323) 732-4147

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