

HONORS AND AWARDS:
Diversity Incentive Award
Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Long Island
University--Brooklyn

The Diversity Incentive Award was approved by the Council of Academic Programs Executive Board in February 2000 to recognize the individual, individuals, or programs making significant contributions to achieving diversity in the field of Communication Disorders. In this, the inaugural year of the Diversity Incentive Award, the Council has begun a tradition of recognizing those who seek to increase the presence of under represented populations in the field of communication disorders. The under represented populations may include, but are not limited to those based on race, gender, national origin, and disability. This broad definition is intended to encourage nominations from a wide variety of individuals and programs, a pool as wide and diverse as the population we serve.

As a result, the Committee on Honors and Awards received a variety of nominations whose goals, objectives, and focus were as diverse as diversity itself. Although all were worthy of recognition, one program stood apart. This program was initiated six years ago and was designed from its inception to enhance the study of human communication sciences and disorders within a culturally and linguistically diverse society.

The program has targeted students from a broad range of cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Of the 120 students currently enrolled in its graduate program, 40% are bilingual, speaking Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Haitian, Creole, Mandarin Chinese, Cantonese Chinese, Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, and Greek. The faculty is diverse as well, including individuals from South Africa, Taiwan, El Salvador, and Puerto Rico. The uniqueness of the program is evident in that it considers diversity both from a personal viewpoint (that which exists in a person's mind) and from a social viewpoint (that which considers the various

social contexts in which an individual finds him or herself). Rather than focusing solely on diversity from an academic perspective, the program has adopted a view of diversity as a process involving interactions between an individual and the social environment. The impact of the program is far reaching both figuratively and literally: the program has established a satellite clinic site in Santiago, Chile that will allow Spanish speaking professionals and families a variety of significant opportunities. This is true diversity in its broadest and most inclusive sense.

The recipient of the first Diversity Incentive Award truly reflects the intention of the Council in creating the award. The contribution is significant, it contributes to increases in under-represented groups in the field of Communication Sciences and Disorders, and it underscores the Council's commitment to diversity.

The winner of the 2002 Diversity Incentive Award is the Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus.