

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston  
January 15 – 19, 2010**

**Topic:** Request for Spectrum Donation

**Background:** Miguel Figueroa, ALA's Executive Director for the Office for Diversity, has compiled information about Spectrum and their latest fundraising effort, which is provided below. The Spectrum Presidential Initiative Leadership Taskforce would like each Division to make a donation to the campaign. The Board will want to decide, what if any, donation to make on behalf of YALSA.

**Action Required:** Action

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**From the ALA Office for Diversity:**

**The American Library Association's  
Spectrum Scholarship Program & Spectrum Presidential Initiative**

***About Spectrum***

Established in 1997, the Spectrum Scholarship Program is ALA's national diversity and recruitment effort designed to address the specific issue of under-representation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession while serving as a model for ways to bring attention to larger diversity issues in the future. Spectrum's mission is to improve service at the local level through the development of a representative workforce that reflects the communities served by all libraries in the new millennium.

To be eligible for a Spectrum Scholarship:

- Applicant must be a citizen or permanent resident of the U.S. or Canada.
- Applicant must be American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander.
- Applicant must attend an ALA-accredited graduate program in library and information studies or an ALA-recognized NCATE School Library Media program.
- Applicant shall have completed no more than a third of the credit requirements toward her/his MLIS or school library media degree at the time of award, June 1st.
- Applicant must be enrolled in an accredited program and begin school no later than 166

To date, over 600 scholarships have been awarded to qualified applicants pursuing a Masters in Library and Information Science.

***Current Funding for Spectrum***

Upon its establishment in 1997, ALA committed resources for 50 annual scholarships of \$5,000 a year for Spectrum's first

grant to support Spectrum Scholars past 2010, but this funding is not guaranteed and cannot be counted on to fund the future of Spectrum.

***Spectrum Overview Demographics*** (all percentages based on 606 recipients from 1998-2009 who have completed a full scholarship year)

**Gender**

108 Male (18%)

498 Female (82%)

**Ethnicity**

29 American Indian/Alaskan Native Scholars (5%)

149 Asian Scholars (25%)

258 Black/African American Scholars (42%)

158 Hispanic/Latino (26%)

12 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (2%)

\*Note that the racial and ethnic classification standards changed in 2001, specifically Pacific Islander and Asian have been broken out. A percentage of Pacific Islander scholars prior to 2000 may have been classified as Asian.

**Regional**

39 New England (6%)

106 Middle Atlantic (18%)

120 South (20%)

127 Midwest (21%)

65 Southwest (11%)

139 West (23%)

9 Canadian (1%)

1 Outside US/Canada (0%)

**LIS Program**

Alabama, University of [7 Spectrum Scholars]

Albany, State University of New York [1 Spectrum Scholar]

Arizona, University of [16 Spectrum Scholars]

British Columbia, University of [8 Spectrum Scholars]

Buffalo, State University of New York [12 Spectrum Scholars]

California - Los Angeles, University of [31 Spectrum Scholars]

Catholic University of America [12 Spectrum Scholars]

Chicago State University [3 Spectrum Scholars]

Clark Atlanta University [1 Spectrum Scholar]

Clarion University of Pennsylvania [1 Spectrum Scholars]

College of St. Catherine [7 Spectrum Scholars]

Denver, University of [2 Spectrum Scholars]

Dominican University [19 Spectrum Scholars]

Indiana University [8 Spectrum Scholars]  
Indiana University – Purdue University, Indianapolis [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Iowa, University of [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Kent State University [9 Spectrum Scholars]  
Kentucky, University of [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Louisiana State University [4 Spectrum Scholars]  
Long Island University [8 Spectrum Scholars]  
Maryland, University of [14 Spectrum Scholars]  
McGill University [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Michigan, University of [16 Spectrum Scholars]  
Missouri-Columbia, University of [5 Spectrum Scholars]  
North Carolina - Chapel Hill, University of [13 Spectrum Scholars]  
North Carolina - Greensboro, University of [2 Spectrum Scholars]  
North Carolina Central University [10 Spectrum Scholars]  
North Texas, University of [19 Spectrum Scholars]  
Oklahoma, University of [4 Spectrum Scholars]  
Old Dominion University [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Pittsburgh, University of [30 Spectrum Scholars]  
Pratt Institute [12 Spectrum Scholars]  
Queens College, City University of New York [11 Spectrum Scholars]  
Rhode Island, University of [5 Spectrum Scholars]  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey [13 Spectrum Scholars]  
Sam Houston State University [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
San Jose State University [58 Spectrum Scholars]  
Simmons College [26 Spectrum Scholars]  
Southern Connecticut State University [5 Spectrum Scholars]  
Southern Mississippi, University of [5 Spectrum Scholars]  
South Carolina, University of [13 Spectrum Scholars]  
South Florida, University of [22 Spectrum Scholars]  
St. John's University [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Syracuse University [5 Spectrum Scholars]  
Tennessee, University of [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Texas - Austin, University of [24 Spectrum Scholars]  
Texas Woman's University [11 Spectrum Scholars]  
Valdosta State [1 Spectrum Scholar]  
Washington, University of [12 Spectrum Scholars]  
Wayne State University [14 Spectrum Scholars]  
Western Ontario, University of [2 Spectrum Scholars]  
Wisconsin - Madison, University of [9 Spectrum Scholars]  
Wisconsin - Milwaukee, University of [5 Spectrum Scholars]

### ***Spectrum Application Trends***

Over the past several years, the Spectrum Scholarship Program has been able to fund approximately half of all applications. Unfortunately, many qualified applicants go unfunded.











establish meetings and conduct preliminary interviews. While this list is currently confidential, it does include some familiar names (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Dollar General Literacy Foundation, Verizon Foundation, etc.) and some new prospects (BOEING, JP Morgan Chase, Silicon Valley Community Trust, etc.).

### ***SPI Internal Strategy***

The SPI Leadership Taskforce is also busy identifying a strategy to raise \$.5 million from the internal library community. This fundraising will happen through several means, including targeted direct mail appeals, a grassroots “Dinners for Spectrum” plan, and a general appeal to the membership and larger library community.

ALA Divisions, Affiliates, and Roundtables are among the leaders in potential giving and can continue to demonstrate their strong commitment to the Spectrum Scholarship Program.

Divisions, Affiliates, and Roundtables will also lead the way in reaching out to members and encouraging them to give as part of an organized campaign under the heading of the Division, Affiliate, or Roundtable.

### ***Communication***

If you have questions, comments, or feedback on the direction of the Spectrum Presidential Initiative or how you can get involved in the initiative, please contact Miguel A. Figueroa, Director, Office for Diversity at [mfigueroa@ala.org](mailto:mfigueroa@ala.org), or Kim Olsen-Clark, Director, Development Office at [kolsen-clark@ala.org](mailto:kolsen-clark@ala.org).

### ***Spectrum Presidential Initiative Leadership Taskforce***

Camila Alire, ALA President

Jim Rettig, ALA Immediate Past President

Roberta Steven, ALA President-Elect

Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director

Betty Turock, Chair, SPI Leadership Taskforce

Jim Neal

Carol Brey-Casiano

Liz Bishoff

Pat Smith

Terri Kirk

Winston Tabb

Luis Herrera

### ***Spectrum Presidential Initiative Taskforce Honorary Co-Chairs organized cam***

**Paula Poundstone**, social commentator and comedian

**Richard Rodriguez**, author and writer

**Luis Rodriquez**, author

**Sharon Robinson**, author

*Spectrum Presidential Initiative Advisory Committee*