

Dear Parents,

The University of Toledo is preparing to launch the third year of the Multicultural Emerging Scholars Program (MESP), which includes both a six-week campus experience in the summer and a first-year living-learning community. Students in the first two cohorts earned average GPA's significantly higher than those who entered with similar ACT scores and GPA's. MESP students are also more likely to remain in school, and the first two cohorts have shown retention from first semester to second semester of more than 90 percent, and first year to second year retention of almost 70 percent, again significantly higher than similar students who did not participate.

For the summer, students live on campus and take summer courses that count towards their degree. Selected students receive a \$7,000 scholarship for the summer that covers school tuition, food and books. The program is designed to strengthen a student's first academic year at The University of Toledo by providing a stimulating and supportive academic environment while connecting them with other like-minded students who are energized about academic achievement and career development. Our students' success exceeded our hopes and expectations. As a result, we are able to extend that program to third class of incoming students this year.

The MESP is designed to empower and support historically underrepresented students who are interested in engaging a culture of academic success in an environment that is diverse in ethnic, religious, and gender dimensions. MESP students accepted into the program will take a curriculum that will equip them with the intellectual capacities for analysis of scientific and social problems, strong writing and communication skills, quantitative reasoning, creative and independent thinking, and the ability to appreciate and understand different points of view. Members of MESP will also develop skills in leadership and participate in community outreach.

The University of Toledo's **MESP** program has two critical components: **The MESP Summer Bridge Program and The MESP Living Learning Community**. The Bridge component of the MESP is a residential summer program where students earn up to 6 hrs of college course credit. Students will move into campus housing on **Saturday, June 24, 2017** and spend six weeks living in the Academic House Residence Hall where they will receive enhanced instructions in Math, English, and a survey course in Human Anthropology, with a particular emphasis on cultures often ignored in traditional course, i.e., the African American and Hispanic/Latino experience. Additionally, students will participate in academic and social enrichment activities, explore and enjoy dynamic resources on the UT campus and in the local community.

The summer bridge also affords students the chance to meet with UT faculty who teach the first-year science, Math, English, and Social Science courses, the Department Chairpersons, College Deans, and other college administrators and support staff in a relaxed environment. Studies show that the first year of college is pivotal to the long term success of students, particularly

those from underrepresented minority groups. Students that participate in Summer Bridge programs are more comfortable with the university environment when the fall semester starts, tend to have higher grades in their first year of college, have a higher retention rate for the second year, and are more likely to complete a Bachelor's degree program and graduate from college.

Using the summer bridge as a springboard, your student will continue to live and study with the same community of scholars—MESP Living Learning Community—for the fall 2017 and spring 2018 and continue to receive enhanced instruction and advising. Commuter students will have to commit to remaining on campus some evenings to participate in learning community events. All students will be connected to crucial campus support systems such as the Office of Excellence Multicultural Student Success, mentored by faculty who are themselves members of underrepresented minorities through organizations such as Brothers on the Rise (BOTR) and Talented and Aspiring Women Leaders (TAWL), and encouraged to actively engage in campus life.

As outlined in the brochure and on the website, participants accepted into the MESP will receive an *\$7,000 Emerging Scholars Summer Scholarship* which includes:

- **Tuition** for six credit hours of Scholars Transitional Summer Courses
- **Enrollment** in the adaptive learning Math camp to enhance math skills
- **Housing** for six weeks of summer school, June 24-August 4
- **Meals** for six weeks of summer school
- **Books** for all summer courses
- **Enrollment** in the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Emerging Scholars Living Learning Community

For more information and eligibility requirements visit <http://www.utoledo.edu//al/mesp/>

In summary, like your students, we are excited about the upcoming academic year and the opportunity to assist your student in beginning a wonderful journey at The University of Toledo. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the Directors.

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