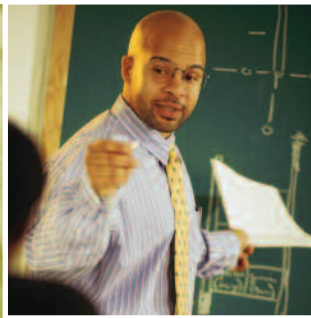




*Building
Opportunity for
Immigrants to the
United States*



MERAGE FOUNDATION
FOR THE
AMERICAN DREAM

SUPPORT ■ RECOGNIZE

For most immigrants who have undertaken an often time difficult, indeed

sometimes perilous journey to reach the United States of America, the American

Dream means expanded opportunity,

increased security, and guaranteed basic

freedoms. It translates into deeply held personal perceptions that building a good

life for oneself and one's family and

becoming a contributor and leader in one's

community will not be frustrated by

arbitrary political, religious, and racial

distinctions. It is a vision of expanded

individual possibilities concerning

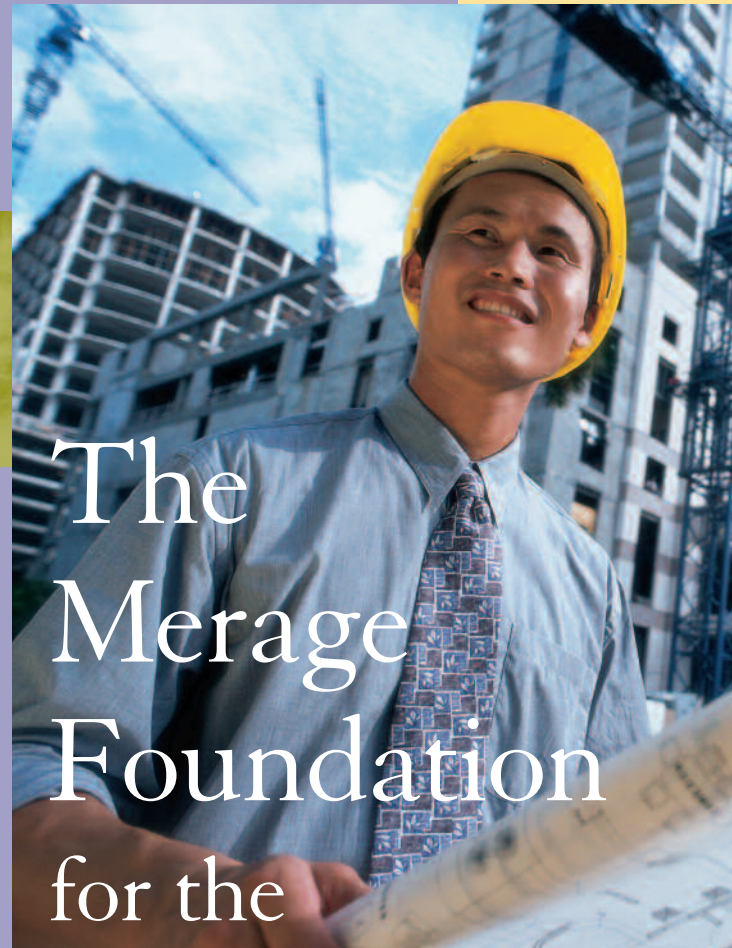
expression, creativity, and achievement.

Paraphrasing Emerson, immigrants believing in the American Dream will be

able to walk with their feet...work with

their hands... speak their own minds...

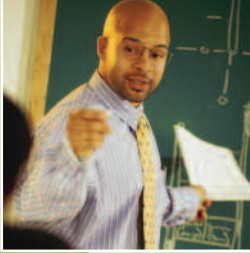
and reach their own aspirations.



The
Merage
Foundation
for the

*American
Dream*

INSPIRE ■ ENCOURAGE



THE VISION...

The Merage Foundation is dedicated to promoting expanded opportunities for immigrants. It will inspire young immigrants to achieve their American Dream. It will help promising immigrants become leaders in their communities and for the nation. It will encourage Americans to recognize and celebrate the contributions of immigrants to America.



It will help create an “I can do it too” attitude among young immigrants and first generation Americans.

Inspire the Young to Achieve Their American Dream

The Foundation will inspire young immigrants and first generation Americans. It will provide them with outstanding role models through increasing their understanding of the important achievements of highly successful immigrants. It will help create an “I can do it too” attitude among young immigrants and first

generation Americans. Among its initiatives, the Foundation, working with educational leaders, will:

- Develop DVDs that relate with words and pictures how nationally prominent American immigrants achieved their American Dream and, at the same time, made significant contributions to America.

- Begin pilot programs in a limited number of secondary schools with high numbers of immigrant students. The pilot programs will integrate use of the DVDs with lesson plans that involve the active classroom participation of successful immigrants residing in nearby communities.
- Extend the pilot programs over time to secondary schools throughout the country based on the desire of local school officials, teachers, parents, and immigrant students.

Support Promising Immigrants to Achieve Their American Dream

Each year, the Foundation will choose a number of promising immigrant students in their fourth year of college to participate in the Merage Foundation’s Fellows Program. The selected Fellows will be immigrant students who reflect both a strong desire and a real capacity to achieve leadership roles in business, science, education, public service, culture, and the arts. Their selection will be based on the clarity of their plans concerning pursuit of their American Dreams and their future desires to contribute to America; their academic accomplishments; their leadership; their creativity and initiative; their sense of civic responsibility and ethical compass; and their proven ability to overcome obstacles impeding their personal objectives. Fellows will be citizens or permanent residents.

Nominations for the Fellows Program will be made by partner universities in gateway areas of America—areas with high numbers of immigrants. Members of the National Advisory Board or other recognized leaders identified by the Foundation will interview nominees. The Foundation will make the final selection of Fellows.

Each Fellow will receive a \$10,000 stipend per year for two years. Fellows may spend the funds on the following kinds of activities: graduate education; strategic travel related to professional development; participation in specific skill building training programs; use of consultants to develop and carry out business or professional plans; and personal or family support associated with internships. Additionally, the Foundation will provide Fellows with:

- Access to experienced mentors;
- Opportunities to share experiences with other Fellows; and.
- Access to leadership networks to help build their careers..

Each Fellow will make a commitment to mentor future Fellows after their initial two years in the Fellows program.

Encourage Americans to Recognize and Celebrate the Contribution of Immigrants

America has received and continues to receive much from its immigrant population. Immigrants have helped make America's economy competitive. They have played in and led our symphonies. They have composed some of this country's most treasured music and written some of this country's best literature and drama. They have become quality artists and artisans. They have made significant contributions in science and education. They have assumed leadership positions in business, government, and non-profit organizations. Their individual and collective stories are compelling and, taken together, help define and sustain America as a land of opportunity.

The Foundation will initiate and sustain a significant public information program. It will be directed at increasing the public's

comprehension of the positive role played by immigrants in the development and continued evolution of the United States. The Foundation will :

- Convene National Forums to address key immigration issues and immigrant opportunities;
- Initiate a National Awards Dinner to recognize the significant accomplishments of successful and prominent immigrant citizens;;
- Develop periodic papers on key immigration issues facing the nation; and;
- Foster case studies describing how successful immigrant-citizens secured their American Dream and how they, in the process, contributed significantly to the quality of life of all Americans.



America has received and continues to receive much from its immigrant population.

SUPPORT ■ RECOGNIZE

About the Foundation

The Foundation was established by Paul and Lilly Merage, both immigrants to the United States. Having lived the American Dream, they fervently believe in the ideals that have made the United States a unique land of opportunity for immigrants. In establishing the Foundation, they hope to help preserve and promote these ideals and to inspire new Americans to greater achievement.

The Foundation's National Advisory Board is composed of a group of outstanding Americans, many of whom are immigrants to the United States. The Board will be involved in reviewing the Foundation's continuing agenda. Members will interview candidates for the Foundation's Fellows Program. Many of its members will participate in National Forums on immigration sponsored by the Foundation.

The Foundation's partner universities will evaluate and nominate outstanding graduating students for the Fellows Program. They will help the

Foundation seek out
mentors and
networking sources for
the Fellows.

They fervently
believe in the
ideals that
have made the
United States
a unique land
of opportunity.



PRESIDENT

Paul Merage

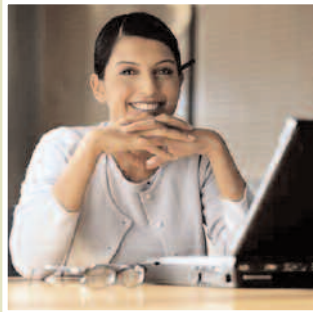
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marshall Kaplan

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Boston University
Columbia University
Harvard University
Hunter College
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
New York University
Northwestern University
Princeton University
Rice University
San Francisco State
Stanford University
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Illinois, Chicago
University of Miami
University of New Mexico
University of Washington

INSPIRE ■ ENCOURAGE



On an annual basis, the Foundation will select individuals to participate in the prestigious Merage Foundation's Fellows Program.

Merage Foundation for the American Dream
4350 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 400
Newport Beach, California 92660

*For More Information,
Please Call Marshall Kaplan, Executive Director
or Tim Bolin, Associate, at (949) 474-5880*



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