

TELSA donates \$50,000 to UC Berkeley

UC BERKELEY –“TELSA” SUMMER STUDIES RESEARCH AWARD

TELSA is proud to announce the setting up of a summer studies research award at the University of California, Berkeley with a contribution of \$50,000 sent to the university in December 2014. Investment income from our contribution will be used by UCB to provide travel grants, living expenses or other needs to undergraduate and graduate students bound for India to undertake scholarly studies in a variety of fields. The award is instituted as an adjunct to the Telugu Studies Program run by the Institute of South Asia Studies, UC Berkeley.

While TELSAs has so far confined itself to the promotion of the language, culture and developmental interests of Telugu people in particular and all Indians in general, the award is meant not just for people of Telugu origin but anyone interested in advancing scholarship and innovation in a multiplicity of disciplines as the following document sent by us to the university shows.

TELSA is a small organization with limited resources but broad interests and has had to make a difficult choice between competing and equally important claims on our funds. Over the last some years we have made strenuous efforts to spread the idea of micro planning for rural development along side taking up sizeable charitable programs in providing free bicycles, drinking water plants, scholarships, tuition assistance and such in hundreds of village high schools in India. We have had to scale down these efforts last year in making this grant. We hope our contribution to UCB will ignite the interest of some bright student in the limitless possibilities for research and innovation impacting the lives of people not just in India but everywhere.

We also hope our example will lead other Indian organizations with far greater resources to not only follow our initiative, but dwarf our effort.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

“TELSA” SUMMER STUDIES RESEARCH AWARD

Introduction

The TELSAs Summer Studies Research Award would be an annual grant made out of investment income generated from a \$50,000 contribution by the Telugu Society of America TELSAs, a non-profit organization based in Claremont, California, and dedicated to the promotion of development of Telugu people, their culture and material conditions.

Goal

The Goal of the TELSAs Summer Studies Research Award is to promote quality interdisciplinary undergraduate or graduate research on topics pertaining to the people, their language, region, culture, political economy, rural and urban planning, and such.

The award is expected to afford the successful applicant an opportunity to obtain academic credit by conducting research under the direction and guidance of qualified UC Berkeley faculty. The topic selected for research under this award is expected to be consistent with, and advance TELSAs mission of developing and disseminating a rigorous understanding of key theoretical and practical questions that underlie and inform the experience of the diverse range of global communities under the Telugu rubric.

Applicants

As a general rule, application to the program may be open to graduate students and undergraduates at the Junior and higher levels, in good standing at the University of California. By way of indicating its own preferences, TELSAs would like to see the successful applicant fall

into one or more of the following categories,

- A student who has taken the courses offered by University of California's Telugu studies program or similar courses at other accredited institutions
- Students whose parent(s), or who themselves, are Telugu language speakers
- Others where the University in consultation with the faculty of the Telugu language program considers the above categories too restrictive in terms of a student's exceptional ability to pursue research that has a bearing on the common concerns of people everywhere.

Expected Research Deliverables

At the conclusion of research sponsored or supplemented by the award, it is expected that the student will prepare and submit, in a timely fashion, a scholarly report detailing the findings of the research. The report will be made available to TELSA, which might request, at its discretion, that a formal presentation be made of the work to the TELSA membership.

The Awarding Process

It is expected that the University of California, in consultation with the UC Telugu Studies Initiative, will undertake the establishment of appropriate procedures for administering the award in all its aspects and phases, including inviting, receiving and evaluating applications, selection of successful candidates, guiding and monitoring the student's research, as well as normal oversight functions, all with the aim of fulfilling the goals of TELSA in making this award.

Use of Award Monies

While the TELSA award does not impose any restrictions a priori on the manner in which the award monies are spent, by the awardees, it is nevertheless expected that the selected applicant will state in his or her application how he or she proposes to use the award money. In ensuing years, TELSA will rely on such information to improve and refine its funding projects. The grant may be made in conjunction with other research awards aimed at pursuing goals similar to TELSA's.

Award Timeline

It is expected that the inaugural award will be made in time to support one student's work during the summer of 2016. The schedule for the phases of the awarding process leading up to this starting date should be derived accordingly.