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## Cultural/Identity Graduation Funding

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## Cultural/Identity Graduation Funding

Author: Senator Samantha Vega

Whereas: Whittier College is an institution that prides itself on diversity and inclusion of all identities within its student body

Whereas: Whittier College is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution as well as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution

Whereas the Whittier College website sites the founders of Whittier College by stating “Our Quaker founders believed that the divine light lies within each person and that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect.”<sup>1</sup>

Whereas: Whittier College boasts being on the forefront of creating a campus that reflects “the ethnic diversity of our nation”<sup>2</sup>

Whereas: One of the four C’s of Whittier College is the understanding and appreciation of Cultural perspectives

Whereas: Whittier College was ranked number eleven on U.S News “Campus Ethnic Diversity” list for liberal arts campus<sup>3</sup>

Whereas: Whittier College was included in World News’ 2017 “America’s Best Colleges” liberal arts college list due to its commitment to “social mobility (recruiting and graduating low-income students), research (producing cutting-edge scholarship and Ph.D.s), and service (encouraging students to give something back to their country).”<sup>4</sup>

Whereas: Whittier College was awarded a 2.6 million dollar grant to enhance STEM Learning due to its standing as a Hispanic Serving Institution by The Department of Education’s Title V, Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whittier.edu/about/diversity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.whittier.edu/about/diversity>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.whittier.edu/news/09-13-16>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-liberal-arts-colleges>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.whittier.edu/news/10-7-15-1>

Whereas: Whittier College President Sharon Herzberger has been quoted as saying ““Our commitment to educating a diverse student population is a priority””<sup>6</sup>

Whereas: Latino Graduation is in its 16th year and only receives a portion of its funding from the Ortiz Program which relies on donations

Whereas Lavender graduation is in its third year and is typically funded through student funds, the Office of Equity and Inclusion and Faculty Master Houses

Whereas BSU Graduation received its funding entirely from ASWC Senate, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, and the BSU club account

Whereas the ASWC Senate has funded \$11,181.95 to the four cultural/identity graduations this academic year<sup>7</sup>

Therefore Let be resolved : That ASWC Senate implore Whittier College as an institution to provide sufficient annual funds for all graduation celebrations in order to remove the monetary burden currently placed on individual organizations, the ASWC Senate, and the Office of Equity and Inclusion

Let it be further resolved: That the ASWC Senate ask that Whittier College as an institution make these cultural and identity graduation celebrations a priority so long as the diversity of the campus is used in the acquisition of grants

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.whittier.edu/news/12-3-14-0>

<sup>7</sup> <https://orgsync.com/80843/files/610572>

