

Focused on Diversity: Then and Now

A commitment to student, faculty and curriculum diversity is at the heart of Antioch University Seattle's mission. AUS proudly continues a legacy of inclusiveness, social justice and progressive education that dates back to Antioch University's founding in 1852.

In the United States, Antioch University was:

- the first college to educate men and women on an equal basis (from Antioch's founding)
- one of the first institutions to admit African American students
- the first college to hire a woman faculty member with status equal to her male colleagues (Rebecca Pennell, 1853-1859)
- the first co-educational college to have a woman on the Board of Trustees (Rebecca Rice, class of 1860 and trustee 1888-1898)

Today, Antioch Seattle maintains this focus on a more inclusive and representative education for everyone. We welcome students of all backgrounds.

About 30 percent of our students identify themselves as people of color. Approximately 24 percent of faculty and almost one-third of staff members are

people of color, including members of administrative leadership.

AUS students benefit from this added cultural richness in areas such as class dialogue, innovative curriculum and development of programs, and regular multicultural events on campus which focus on world events and societal issues.

Events in 2002 promoting diversity include:

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In March, AUS received a five-year, \$3 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to work with schools and tribal communities throughout Washington state to improve high-school retention and college access for Native American youth. AUS will work with schools that serve native students to design eight "early college high schools." As many as 1,900 native students may participate. Click [here](#) for more information.

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During 2002, the monthly Leadership Breakfast series has focused on diversity and multiculturalism. Academic and administrative leaders have discussed issues such as cultural assumptions, fairness and how to further embrace various world views on campus.

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New scholarships available to incoming students include funds targeted to providing opportunities for students of color.

Antioch Seattle is proud of its legacy of inclusion and social justice and of the education it offers students. Work continues every day to further enhance the opportunities and experiences available.

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