New SSWA social justice scholarship

03/07/2017

Utah State University’s Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology has created a scholarship program for students who want to become “ambassadors for social justice.”

The new “Human Rights and Social Justice Ambassador Scholarship” offers 16 students stipends of $1,000 each for spring semester 2017, said department head Derrik Tollefson.

Disagreements over national politics, policy and values are an important aspect of America’s democracy, he said. “But we can and should be committed to civil and respectful discourse and sociality.”

The 16 scholarships will be divided evenly among the department’s four programs: sociology, anthropology, criminal justice and social work. “These are not new issues for us,” said Tollefson. “They are at the core of what we do.”

The scholarships are open to declared majors and minors in the department who, according to Tollefson, have “demonstrated a commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and social justice through scholarship, advocacy and action.”

Recipients of the scholarship will plan and stage a spring event that Tollefson said will be a “celebration of human rights.”

“For me,” adds Tollefson, “the whole point of this is really an expression of optimism about the future of human rights and social justice.”

Applications for the scholarship are due Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The application is at http://bit.ly/2hdfGBx

Related links: http://sswa.usu.edu/

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