In Arizona we have many motivated, high achieving students. For some students, a lack of family resources has been a barrier to higher education. With the right support, students can be successful, build better communities and create positive change. Arizona State University is committed to providing these opportunities.

Since President Michael Crow’s arrival, there has been a deep commitment to access to higher education, and this program is a manifestation of that commitment.

ASU has pursued the goals of access and excellence simultaneously, something that sets us apart from our peers. The Obama Scholars program has had a great response at both local and national levels. Success starts with opportunity.
AGENDA

Obama Scholars Welcome & Agenda overview (3:00-3:15 pm – Mark Sanders)
  * the purpose of the Obama Scholars Program
Student Speaker (3:15-3:30)
OSP How does it work (3:30-3:45) - Mark
  * Mentor/Coach explanation
  * Scholars Success Component
  * WHO IS MY MENTOR OR COACH?
    * FYS Coaches – Lindsay Romasanta
Financial aid overview (3:45-4:00)
  * Olivia Diaz
Next Steps (4:00-4:10) – Mark
  * Call out to Study Abroad table
  * Mentor/Coach posted on website Sept. 21st!
The purpose of the Obama Scholars program is embodied in the Sun Devil Way.
At ASU, the Sun Devil Way is our foundation. The principles that frame how we deliver support services, activities, and guide our actions are based on the Sun Devil Way.

**ACHIEVEMENT:**
In and out of the classroom
Set academic and personal goals
Take advantage of the learning and support resources around campus

**RESPONSIBILITY:**
Make responsible choices to achieve your goals. Make responsible choices as a member of a community...the ASU community.

**ENGAGEMENT:**
You are encouraged to get involved on campus, whether it’s through attending a university tradition like Game Days and Homecoming or through participation in a club or organization. The Obama Scholars program is designed to specifically support student engagement through the monthly Scholar Success program activities...we will expand on later.
Students identified as Obama Scholars are those students who:

Meet ASU general admissions criteria
Are Arizona residents who have just graduated from an AZ high school
Filed the FAFSA and by the articulated deadlines
Are within the family income threshold ($42,400 or less)
1010 Obama Scholars – university wide, across all four ASU locations
79.1% are merit scholars
average high school GPA = 3.51
average college credits = 16.9
Brittany Ferguson graduated from Higley High in Gilbert, Arizona and became an ASU Sun Devil in 2011. She graduated from ASU last May with a BA in Criminal Justice. As an Obama scholar, Brittany has been involved in several campus organizations. She worked at the Dean of Students office since her sophomore year, became a Community Assistant and lead a group of students on an alternative Spring Break trip to the Dominican Republic. In addition, Brittany spent the spring semester of her junior year studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Brittany is the first person in her family to attend college and takes advantage of every opportunity that ASU presents her.
How does the Obama Scholars program work?

There are two main components: Scholars Success and Financial award.
Obama Scholars benefit from a one to one mentoring or coaching relationship during their freshman year.

- YOU are expected to meet with your mentor at least once a month – approximately six meetings per year.
- Communication with your mentor is a safe place to ask questions, express concerns and celebrate successes. Mentors are in a unique position to refer students to appropriate campus resources and services, as well as provide future letters of recommendation.
• Mentors/Coaches may “teach you how to fish” NOT “provide you with food.” The goal is for you to strengthen independent skills as a result of this experience
• Students will learn useful skills from the challenges that they encounter
• Mentors/Coaches provide guidance and support that may be needed through this process
• Mentors/Coaches are also expected to hold scholars accountable when appropriate
• Mentors/Coaches provide an open, tolerant environment for the scholar to share their concerns and struggles and engage in problem-solving behavior
Develop a collaborative relationship – get to know your mentor, talk about your interests, fears, challenges.

Setting a few goals is important:
1) discuss your academic goals and
2) a goal the two of you agree upon for your relationship (e.g. your role as a communicative scholar, and their role as a support resource)

Share your course load with your mentor, discuss how you are performing on tests and homework, and what support systems are available. It is critical to keep your mentor informed so he/she can best support you.

Your mentor/coach will serve as a resource, provide guidance on how to navigate and utilize campus support services. Students often feel excited as well as overwhelmed as they begin college. The challenges you may experience are likely common, and the university is prepared to assist you.
Through the Obama Scholars resource page the Obama Scholars Program will provide you monthly campus activities, events and services to take advantage of.

Discuss with your mentor/coach what Scholar Success Activities you are participating in.

Participating in campus activities, events and services is not only the Sun Devil Way, these features are all designed to connect you with campus resources, teach you about ASU, provide opportunities for you to meet new people, assure that you will do well in your classes and reach your academic goal...graduation!

Participating in a monthly scholar success activity is an expectation of the Obama Scholar’s Program.
How do I find out who my mentor or coach is?
This is the Obama Scholars Resource webpage – WILL BE LIVE SEPT. 21ST

CONTACT MENTOR or COACH button is where your mentor/coach contact information is found
Click on it to view your mentor or coach. **If no information is listed, you still need to complete and submit a Scholars Agreement form** which is found on the main Obama Scholars Resources website on the Scholars section at the bottom of the page. Once received you will soon be matched and contacted by your mentor or coach. You may be contacted by your FYS Coach sooner...that’s great!

SCHOLARS NEWS button is where the monthly e-news will be newly posted on or about the 1ST of each month
You will receive monthly email reminders and updates to meet with your mentor or coach as well as involvement opportunities on and around campus.
Through the First Year Success Center’s coaching program, highly-qualified upper-division and graduate students team up with freshmen to offer free academic support, information, skill development and advocacy.

These coaches have experienced the challenges and obstacles first-year students are facing and work closely with them to help form good study habits, solve problems, adjust to the demands of college life and more.
Your first-year success coach will contact you via phone and email. You can learn who your success coach is by navigating to the First-Year Success link on your MyASU. To schedule an appointment with your First-Year Success Coach, please call 480-965-3289.
How does the Obama Scholars program work?

There are two main components: Scholars Success and Financial award.
-As an Obama Scholar, your estimated direct costs are covered for eight consecutive full time semesters.
-Aid is provided through a combination of sources and will vary for every student.

• Obama Scholars program is designed to meet these estimated direct costs through three sources
  1. scholarships and grant aid
  2. work-study
  3. expected family contribution (EFC) as determined from the FAFSA
Estimated direct costs include:

- Actual tuition and mandatory fees
- Standardized allowances for room, board and books/supplies
  - Special class/college fees and academic program fees are not covered
  - Summer tuition/fees are not covered through the Obama Scholars program
  - You may choose to spend one semester in an ASU-sponsored study abroad program.

estimated direct costs include:

- actual tuition and mandatory fees, such as:
  - Technology Fee
  - Health & Wellness fee
  - FA Trust
  - Student Program fee
  - Recreation fee
  - Association Student of AZ fee

- standardized allowances for room, board and books/supplies

Note: If your major requires specific housing that exceeds ASU's standard allowance (e.g., Barrett Honors or majors based on the Downtown Phoenix campus), the Student Financial Aid Office will review your budget and awards to reflect your required housing charges.

special class/college fees, study abroad program fees and academic program fees are not covered

summer fees are not covered through the Obama Scholars program
• Remember, the program is not designed to cover ALL of your expenses. The program was designed to reduce the amount of student loan debt. It covers your estimated direct costs, minus your estimated family contribution (EFC) with gift aid and Federal Work-Study.

• ASU uses a standardized allowance for books/supplies, room and board expenses, not exact costs (except for specific required housing as mentioned in the earlier slide). Do your housing/meal plan selections and books exceed our standard allowances for those costs? You may need to use your work-study award or borrow your offered loans in order to pay remaining costs. You also may want to consider changing your housing and/or meal plan selections in order to best use the gift aid that this program offers and minimize the amount you may need to work or borrow.
• HOW DO I CONTINUE AS AN OBAMA SCHOLAR EACH YEAR?

• Obama Scholars must maintain full-time status
  • You must earn at ASU 24 credit hrs by end of spring semester
  • Maintain satisfactory academic progress each year remain in the program as well as to receive other type(s) of financial aid assistance.
  • Apply by FAFSA deadline, March 1 (free of errors)
  • Submit all documents listed on your ‘To Do’ list items on MyASU by June 1st (free of errors)
  • These deadlines are final.
  • Meet total income requirements ($42,400 or less) and Assets are also considered.
  • Appeals available for only extenuating circumstances.

• must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA
  • By the end of spring semester each year
  • SFAO will send out email reminders on renewal criteria and deadlines to your ASU account in fall and spring semester.
• not all Obama scholars will receive a book grant or an award titled “Obama Scholarship”
  If this is the case, other aid awarded has met your estimated direct cost (minus EFC), and the student remains a participant in the program.

• however, those who do…
  • the amount of the book grant awarded will be refunded to the student for the purpose of buying books
  • students ARE Obama Scholars regardless of receiving an award titled “Obama Scholarship”

• The advantage of you being an Obama Scholar is that if you lose any scholarship or grant funding in the future and continue to meet the Obama renewal criteria, the Obama scholarship will be available to replace that funding.
Obama Scholars who are work-study eligible are expected to contribute to their cost of education via federal work-study... this is considered a self-help component in their aid package;

- Students are awarded up to $2500 in work-study funds. This is money a student has to earn through employment in an on-campus or off-campus federal work study job.

- Note that accepting the whole work study award is not required, but if declined it will not be replaced by gift aid.

- While each student is different, we recommend first year students to not work more than 15 hours/week.

- Students in work-study jobs are paid every two weeks. This may be your first experience working. Talk with your mentor about developing a budget. Students should take into consideration the purchase of class books/materials at the beginning of the semester (and ensuring there are funds available to make these purchases).

- Work-study jobs can be found through the Student Employment website. There are hundreds of positions available on all parts of the campus. Positions range from office receptionists to orientation leaders. If you have been looking for and have not been able to find an on campus job within the first 3-4 weeks of school, talk to your mentor about appropriate next steps.
next steps
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SUBMIT AN ONLINE SCHOLARS AGREEMENT to be matched with a mentor.

YOUR OBAMA MENTOR or COACH WILL BE ASSIGNED AND POSTED ON THE OBAMA SCHOLARS RESOURCE PAGE SEPT. 21st

FYS Coaches are assigned peers through the First Year Success Center (FYS).
This is the Obama Scholars Resource webpage –

**CONTACT MENTOR or COACH button** is where your mentor/coach contact information is found, after September 21st. Click on it to view your mentor or coach. *If no information is listed, you still need to complete and submit a Scholars Agreement form* which is found on the main Obama Scholars Resources website under the Scholars section at the bottom of the page. Once received you will be matched and contacted by your mentor or coach.

**SCHOLARS NEWS button** is where the monthly e-news will be newly posted on or about the 1st of each month. You will receive month email reminders and updates to meet with your mentor or coach as well as involvement opportunities on and around campus.
Study Abroad is here to answer any questions you may have back at their table.

Financial Assistance and First Year Success will also be at their resource tables to answer any questions you may still have.

Again...welcome OBAMA SCHOLARS cohort 2015!

Here is to a successful year at ASU.
Do well in your classes.
Get involved on campus.
See you at the Devil’s On Mill!

Have a great start to the year!
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
Scholars
at Arizona State University