

## SCHOOL HONORS SGI PRESIDENT, ROSA PARKS

Canyon Springs High School in Moreno Valley, Calif., has named SGI President Ikeda and American civil rights activist Rosa Parks honorary principals for the year. The honors came as part of the school's newly established honorary principal program, which has the aim of recognizing accomplished individuals from a wide range of fields and providing a means for students to gain a greater appreciation for their own role as world citizens. The selection of President Ikeda and Mrs. Parks was announced March 6 by Principal Patrick Kelleher.

Located in the rapidly growing new city of Moreno Valley, which is 66 miles east of Los Angeles, Canyon Springs High School has an enrollment of some 3,000 students.

In making the announcement, Mr. Kelleher explained the considerations that informed the process of selecting the school's first honorary principals. The decision was made to nominate prominent leaders (male and female) in the areas of peace and human rights, since these are the foundation of all endeavors from politics and economics to science and art, he said. Moreover, he added, extreme care was taken in making the selection, because of the awareness that the value of the entire program will hinge on those chosen as the first honorary principals. Taking all of this into account, he explained, they arrived at their selections. Mr. Kelleher introduced President Ikeda as leader in the field of education and human rights who advocates building peace and friendship through dialogue.

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima accepted the certificate of honorary principal on President Ikeda's behalf and read a message from the SGI leader (see right).

Ms. Denise Nicholas, Pathways to Freedom coordinator of the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Development, who represented Mrs. Parks at the event, said the human rights activist was delighted to be honored together with President Ikeda. Relating that she had an opportunity to personally meet Mr. and Mrs. Ikeda when she accompanied Mrs. Parks to Japan in May 1994, Ms. Nicholas said she would never forget the deep friendship she witnessed between President Ikeda and Mrs. Parks, nor Mrs. Ikeda's warm hospitality.