Sacramento State and Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) are teaming up to put young Asian and Pacific Islander American teens on the road to becoming college students.

“Journey to Success: Culture, Education and Empowerment” is set for Tuesday, Aug. 6, in Sac State’s University Union Ballroom. More than 500 middle school and high school students and their parents are expected to attend.

The free event, which will include a series of informative workshops and a tour of the Sac State campus, is part of the California State University’s Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Initiative, launched by the Chancellor’s Office in 2011. This is the first time Sacramento State will host a “Journey to Success” college fair.

“The goal of the initiative is to improve college access and graduation achievement for Asian American and Pacific Islander students from underserved communities,” says Dr. Timothy P. Fong, professor of Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State and a member of the statewide AAPI Initiative steering committee. “Community participation is what makes ‘Journey to Success’ different from other college fairs.”

The daylong event was organized by a team of Sacramento State faculty and staff, SCUSD staff and community leaders, and is presented in partnership with the Hmong Women’s Heritage Association, the Hmong Mien Lao Action Network, Iu-Mien Community Services, the Lao Youth Coalition and the Pacific Islander Student Association.

“ ‘Journey to Success’ is designed to connect with and inform Asian and Pacific Islander students and their families about the steps to prepare for, apply for, enroll in and graduate from college,” Fong says.

Among the initiative’s goals is to empower parents with the knowledge to make college a reality for their children and to expose students currently in the sixth to 12th grades to a college environment. Admissions experts from Sacramento State, the Los Rios Community College District and the University of California will be on hand to inform families about the resources and opportunities available.
“We have worked very hard in recent years to bring more students from underserved communities to our campus,” says Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez, who will welcome the students. “‘Journey to Success’ gives Sacramento State and our community education partners an important opportunity to highlight the resources we offer to help students achieve their dreams of a college degree.”

SCUSD Chief of Staff Koua Franz also will be on hand to welcome students.

The event’s keynote speaker is Dr. Steve Arounsack, professor of Anthropology at California State University, Stanislaus. He is renowned for his use of cutting-edge digital technology to share stories of Asian cultures with his students. The California State University and Intel Corp. recognized Arounsack’s creativity and last year honored him with the Sony Electronics Faculty Award for Innovative Instruction with Technology.

For more information about “Journey to Success,” go to http://bit.ly/13kRjmR. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

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