APIA graduating seniors will be honored May 17

In recognition of its proud – and growing – Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) student population, Sacramento State will celebrate the inaugural APIA Senior Success Recognition event Saturday, May 17.

The event, which will run from 4 to 7 p.m. in the University Union Ballroom, will include poetry, music and dance performances. Graduating seniors will have the opportunity to talk about their University experiences and share plans with friends, family, Sacramento State administrators and faculty, and members of the community. More than 300 people are expected to attend.

The theme is “Empowerment, Achievement, Community and Celebration.”

“The ceremony aims to celebrate and forge a collective identity with a greater sense of community among the various APIA ethnic groups on campus,” says Andy Vang, a graduating senior and one of the event’s organizers. “We anticipate that the ceremony will perpetuate solidarity and pride that reflect the students’ shared experiences, growth and achievements.

“We want to promote and inspire the future graduates in the APIA community to continue their education and pursue their career goals,” she says.

APIA students make up about 22 percent of Sacramento State’s enrolled population, says Rikka Venturanza, program adviser with Student Organizations and Leadership. “The Senior Success Recognition will serve to lay a solid foundation for campus and community support for future activities for the students who identify themselves as Asian or Pacific Islander,” she adds.

For more information on the event, go to http://bit.ly/SuHtgd. For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156.

– Dixie Reid

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