

- Title of proposed Project/Activity
 “*Hyphenated American*”: Sac State Student Talk Show
- **Overview and Background of the Project/Activity**

I organized a campus wide event to generate a deeper cultural understanding and sharing about the concept of Americanness in the spring of 2023. In fact, since the Asian Studies Program joins a cluster hire on Anti-Asian Racism and Violence this year, our program would like to respond to the University’s endeavor on anti-racism by hosting a student led event to discuss “Hyphenated American” I called for applicants for the event, *Talk About It* in order to recruit volunteer presenters who would like to speak their minds and experiences on the stage—in person. Until the culminating event happened on May 5, I coordinated regular meetings with the volunteer presenters to help them prepare for the event by elaborating on their thoughts through intensive discussions on reading material and their own stories with other participants and me (as a facilitator). The PFDG time release secured time for me to realize this campus wide event by recruiting participants and preparing them to be able to go on the public stage to run the public open forum— “Hyphenated American.”

- **Significance of the Project/Activity**

This experimental student event can cultivate and disseminate the significant awareness to raise diversity and inclusion across and beyond the University in the following ways. First, this event has led students to interact with other students of various backgrounds to share a way to understand and accommodate the diverse identity issues. They can establish a creative and safe community by hearing from students of different backgrounds— class, gender, ethnic, racial, and national differences.

In addition, this event helped students to enhance an ability for critical thinking and well-mannered speech by discussing the same topic from different angles in an open forum setting. The recruited students have had bi-weekly meetings to share the experiences and thoughts and develop the rapport with each other every other week. This volunteer based and non-class setting discussion community created a unique learning space to sincerely articulate their own stories as well as to carefully listen to others.

Lastly, this event helps students prepared for the future work environment by understanding how diversity is made, experienced, and shared at Sac State. The critical reading on the piece on diversity and inclusion and the firsthand participation experience in this event has provided students with a refreshing eyes and minds to understand how the hyphenated American identities function in work environments.

- **Methodology**
 - Call for Application: The application required to write around 300 words about the self-introduction and the intention to participate in the event. We (Asian Studies Program) recruited four participants willing to attend the event.

- On February 17, we had the first meeting to introduce to each other and share brief participants' own diversity stories (on hyphenated American identities) with the entire group.
- On March 3, we discussed a reading material on *Unwritten Rule: Subtle Inequities* written by Laura Liswood to explore the actual discussion on diversity and inclusivity circulated in the current public publications. Here, participants can be exposed to actual public histories, method of education, and political discourse surrounding diversity and inclusion.
- On March 17, participants wrote their own diversity stories and shared three days prior to the group meeting so that other members could get to read before the meeting. The story should include personal experiences, family histories, and memorable events that help them realize the way that hyphenated American identity has been constructed in their lives. Participants presented their own stories and provided feedback to all the presenters.
- On March 24, based on the feedback from all the group members, students revised and rewrote the story to be presentable to the culminating public event. In this meeting, participants presented their stories in the most effective ways by using power point presentation, video, or other audio materials.
- On April 7, students revised by extending their personal stories in relation to the assigned reading materials.
- On April 21, students submitted the final version of paper.
- On April 28, rehearsal on the presentation
- On May 5, the culminating event to the public in Union; flyers need circulating across campus; the refreshment provided for all the participants in the event; it is open to public. Not only sac state students, but also Sacramento residents attended. At the end of the event, the participating presenters received a certificate provided by the Asian studies program as a proof of completing the entire process.

- **Impact on Department, College, University, and Local Community**

This event was meaningful in that it has enhanced students' understanding of diversity and inclusion in a classroom setting and generated new discussion on the American-ness across and beyond campus. Race as a socially constructed concept is partial but greatly influential in making who we are in the US. The simple representation on racially marked identities could not embrace and explain who we are until individuals provide with fuller and more complex histories in their own ways. This event has unraveled the complexity that students have not been quite elaborated living in the US as hyphenated American. The inclusive environment that students create in their own has helped them fight for the social justice and equality and build more inclusive work environment with diverse co-workers at current and future work place.

