"Our ultimate objective in learning about anything is to try to create and develop a more just society."

Yuri Kochiyama

Dear Hornet Community,

As a designated Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), Sacramento State is committed to promoting and strengthening Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) student engagement and civic participation while increasing their academic achievement and success through culturally relevant curriculum and services. The AANAPISI program, one of eight federally designated Minority-Serving Institutions (MSI) programs, was established by Congress in 2007 as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. It was expanded in 2008 under the Higher Education Opportunity Act.

In recognition of AANAPISI Week 2022, Sept. 26 – Oct. 2, we are excited to celebrate 15 years since Congress established the AANAPISI* program to improve the availability and quality of postsecondary education programs to support low-income, first-generation APIDA students.

In fall 2011, Sacramento State was awarded its first AANAPISI grant ($1.8 million) from the U.S. Department of Education for the Full Circle Project (FCP). FCP is the longest-running AANAPISI program in the California State University system, highlighted in numerous books, articles, and in academic reports. It offers a comprehensive academic support program to improve retention and graduation rates of underserved APIDA and other high-need freshman students through the leadership of the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Asian American Studies program in the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. It works in partnership with the Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs in the Division of Student Affairs.

Sacramento State received two more AANAPISI grants, in fall 2016 ($1.75 million) and fall 2021 ($2 million), to increase graduation rates for low-income and first-generation APIDA and other high-need transfer students. The most recent grant includes partnership with six community colleges in the region: American River, Cosumnes River, Delta, Folsom Lake, Sacramento City, and Sierra. It is intended to develop a model of transfer student services focused on increasing the academic success, retention, and community college transfer rates to Sacramento State for underrepresented and underserved APIDA students. With this new grant, Sacramento State will have a broader regional reach and will serve even more APIDA students.

The FCP is modeled from best practices in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) to advance and promote access, equity, and student success. This is done by all of our equity programs, such as Student Organizations and Leadership (SOAL), the Cooper-Woodson Enhancement Program (CWC), and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP). As we continue to innovate and achieve collective impact with the APIDA community, we are excited to continue planning for the opening of the APIDA Center. We thank the more than 30 students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are invested in the center’s success.

Sacramento State remains committed to fully implementing General Education Area F Ethnic Studies Requirement, which centers on building competencies about the unique experiences of Native American and Indigenous Peoples, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Black Americans, and Latinx/Chicanx Americans in our state and nation, as well as an intersectional analysis among the different communities.

A national AANAPISI Week webinar is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sept. 27 to continue our focus on justice as we implement our Antiracism and Inclusion Campus Action Plan (AICP). Click HERE to register for the event. Additionally, we draw attention to a letter of support to Congress for proposed increases in AANAPISI funding. Click HERE to sign on. Please mark your calendars to be part of Celebrating Hmong New Year, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14 in the Union. We hope to join as a Hornet Family to support and uplift our APIDA community.

In partnership,

Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell, VP for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer

* The term "Native American Pacific Islander" means any descendant of the aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory or possession of the United States.