

## Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



### Undeniable Contributions & Unprecedented Collaborators

With over 23 million Americans from approximately 50 ethnic groups, 40 countries and languages, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) are the most diverse and fastest-growing communities in the United States. Their contributions to the foundational fabric of America are undeniable and continuous beginning with the transcontinental railroad in the U.S., of which the low paid labor of more than 20,000 Chinese Americans constructed the railroad.

We acknowledge the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the multiple contributions and agency of the AANHPI communities toward social change. The historical and contemporary experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. includes racialization, white supremacy, and settler colonialism that have dehumanized and excluded Asian Americans such as Japanese internment, xenophobia, and anti-Asian violence. Our communities have fought these injustices to achieve social change.

As a designated AANAPISI (Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution), Sac State celebrates the 6,400+ students who represent the diaspora of the AANHPI community and who will one day say, "I am Made at Sac State."

We acknowledge the work of the [Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Faculty & Staff Association](#) (APIDAFSA) for their advocacy, networking, mentorship, and community engagement.

We commend the [Asian American Studies Program](#) and its activist foundations from the Third World Liberation Front (TWLF) and student strike at San Francisco State University in 1969 that fought to institutionalize Ethnic Studies in higher education. The Asian American Studies Department continues the legacy of Ethnic Studies that moves beyond the University to achieve broader social change.

We celebrate the awesome leadership, programming and services that are offered through the [Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center](#) (APIDAC). For the social, cultural, educational and advocacy work that make visible the needs of the APIDA community.

We are inspired by the legacy and vision of Dr. May O. Lee, founding director of Asian Resources and Dr. Timothy Fong, Professor of Ethnic Studies and Director of the [Full Circle Project](#) (FCP). FCP is a nationally recognized model student success program for AANHPI students.

We celebrate Jeannie Wong, fearless leader and advocate for social justice, who is the highest ranking Asian-American executive on the President's Cabinet, who collaborates across the campus to craft messages that inspire, inform, and involve the entire Sac State community.

As we continue to honor Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities, let us continue to believe that we can become an antiracism, inclusive and healing campus. Let us commit to being great collaborators and contributors to causes that edify, empower, and engage these diverse communities.

In partnership,

**Dr. Mia Settles-Tidwell,**  
**Vice President for Inclusive Excellence & University Diversity Officer**

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