California State University, Sacramento
Division of Student Affairs & Inclusive Excellence
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Sacramento State - Division of Student Affairs
Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center
Annual Report

Reporting Period: Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

Subdivision Information

- **Subdivision Name:** Student Success and Academic Excellence
- **AVP/Executive Director Name:** Dr. Chao Vang
- **Departments Included in the Report:** Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

Executive Summary

Overview of Key Accomplishments

- **Expanded Student Engagement and Utilization:**
  - Center utilization increased to over 4,040 visits during the Fall 2025 - Spring 2026 academic year, averaging approximately 2,000 visits per semester.
  - The APIDA Center collaborated with seven APIDA student organizations, engaging more than 400 student members who served as touchpoints between the Center and the broader student community. These partnerships increased awareness of resources, strengthened student engagement, and expanded leadership development opportunities.
  - The APIDA Center expanded cultural and heritage-based programming to promote student engagement, cultural awareness, and a sense of belonging. Signature programs included Filipino Heritage Month, Diwali, Lunar New Year, Holi, and other community celebrations that showcased the rich diversity of APIDA communities. These events collectively engaged more than 2,000 students.

- **Expanded Integrated Services:**
  - In partnership with Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services, the APIDA Center integrated Peer Wellness Advocates to expand access to mental health resources, wellness programming, and one-on-one student support. This collaboration increased awareness of mental health services and provided culturally responsive workshops and outreach opportunities for APIDA students.
  - In partnership with the Academic Advising Center, the APIDA Center integrated academic advising and launched targeted support campaigns that connected with

more than 2,500 APIDA students, with a particular focus on students with GPAs below 2.5.

- **Strengthening Partnerships with Community Organizations, Public Officials, and Donors:**
  - In partnership with Asian Pacific American Public Affairs (APAPA), the APIDA Center co-hosted the inaugural California Gubernatorial Forum on September 8, bringing together more 11 gubernatorial candidates with over 600 attendees. The forum elevated the visibility of Sacramento State, while strengthening the University's position as a leading convener of public dialogue, civic engagement, and community partnership.
  - The APIDA Center partnered with API Advocates and community leaders to help lead the 3rd Annual API Advocacy Day, connecting more than 200 community organizations from Northern and Southern California. The event brought together students, advocates, and policymakers, including Assemblymembers Mike Fong, Stephanie Nguyen, and Darshana Patel, as well as California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, to promote civic engagement, advocacy, and community empowerment.
  - The APIDA Center hosted and celebrated the 13th Annual APIDA Graduation Celebration in partnership with Golden Arch Enterprises, CSU ASAP, and Anh Phoong, honoring more than 150 APIDA graduates. The celebration highlighted the academic achievements, resilience, and contributions of graduating students while strengthening partnerships with community leaders and supporters committed to student success and educational equity.

Impact on Students & University Goals

Collectively, these accomplishments demonstrate the APIDA Center's role in strengthening Sacramento State's commitment to being an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) and are aligned with the following imperatives:

- Imperative 1: Learning and Student Success – Goal 1: Cultivate an educational environment that promotes holistic growth and academic achievement.
- Imperative 2: Teaching, Scholarship, and Creative Activity - Goal 4: Partner with the community to address local and global challenges through sharing knowledge, good practice, and expertise.
- Imperative 3: Justice, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging – Goal 6: Foster a community of belonging for the campus community.
- Imperative 4: Resource Development and Sustainability – Goal 4: Raise Sac State's profile with local, state, and federal leaders and diversify additional funding to expand and leverage university partnerships, and student opportunities.

- Imperative 5: Dedicated Community Involvement - Goal 5: Educate and raise awareness of Sacramento State as a community engaged institution, building community pride in the university.
- Imperative 6: Wellness and Safety – Goal 3: Provide a safe and secure environment for all members of the campus community and its visitors.

Major Challenges & Opportunities for Growth:

- Expanding Integrated Student Support Services – Growing student needs related to academic success, mental health, and wellness require continued expansion of coordinated support services and campus partnerships.
- Sustaining Student Belonging and Community – As the APIDA student population continues to grow, maintaining meaningful opportunities for connection, cultural affirmation, and community building remains a priority.
- Strengthening Community and External Partnerships – Expanding and sustaining relationships with community organizations, public officials, and donors will be critical to increasing student opportunities and institutional impact.

Departmental Successes & Accomplishments

Mission Alignment: The APIDA Center serves all Sacramento State community members and allies regardless of race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin, who are interested in APIDA culture, heritage, and life. Across Sacramento State and in the community, the Center is committed to holding space to cultivate collaboration to address the unique and diverse needs of APIDA students and issues impacting these communities.

Key Achievements

- **Expanded Student Engagement and Utilization:**
    - Recorded over 4,040 student visits during the Fall 2025–Spring 2026 academic year, averaging approximately 2,000 student visits per semester, reflecting continued growth in utilization and demand for services.
    - Partnered with more than seven APIDA student organizations, engaging over 400 student leaders and members and strengthening outreach, leadership development, and awareness of APIDA Center resources and opportunities.
    - Expanded the capacity and reach of cultural celebrations and heritage-based programming, including Filipino Heritage Month, Diwali, Lunar New Year, Holi, and other cultural events, collectively engaging more than 2,000 students and fostering cultural awareness, community connection, and a sense of belonging.

- Increased access to integrated student support services through partnerships with the Academic Advising Center and Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services, targeting over 2,500 APIDA students to academic success resources, mental health support, and wellness initiatives.
- Strengthened Sacramento State's visibility and community impact through high-profile partnerships and events, including the California Gubernatorial Forum, API Advocacy Day, and the 13th Annual APIDA Graduation Celebration, connecting students with community leaders, policymakers, alumni, and professional networks.

New or Improved Services/Programs

- Expanded integrated student support services through partnerships with the Academic Advising Center and Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services to increase access to academic success resources, mental health support, and holistic student wellness initiatives.
- Enhanced cultural and heritage-based programming through collaboration with APIDA student organizations, engaging more than 400 student members and strengthening awareness of APIDA Center resources, services, leadership opportunities, and events.
- Expanded Pacific Islander-focused programming through the Pasifika Scholars Series and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) Student Success initiatives to increase culturally responsive support, leadership development, and community engagement opportunities for NHPI students.

Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Efforts

- Provided culturally responsive programs and services that reflected the experiences, and identities of our APIDA student communities:
  - APIDA Healing Circles
  - APIDA Counselor Conversations
  - APIDA PWA Pop - ups
- Hosted heritage and cultural celebrations in recognition of the diversity of our APIDA Students on campus:
  - Filipino American Heritage Month Celebration
  - Diwali Celebration
  - Lunar New Year Celebration
  - Holi Celebration
- Created opportunities for students to explore intersecting identities, leadership, advocacy, and community engagement through partnerships with other CARCs such as the PRIDE Center, SWANA Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center:
  - PRIDE x APIDA: Identity Showcase
  - SWANA X APIDA: Festival of Lights Celebration
  - MLK x APIDA: Open House

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- Supported initiatives focused on underserved student populations, including Pacific Islander student success efforts informed by assessment data and focus group findings:
  - The Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Student Success Report
  - Pasifika Holiday Gathering
  - Pasifika Scholars Series

Partnerships & Collaborations

The APIDA Center collaborates with campus and community partners to advance student success, belonging, leadership development, wellness, and civic engagement. These partnerships expand access to resources, services, and opportunities that support the academic, personal, and professional growth of Sacramento State students in alignment with the following APIDA Center goals:

Goal 1: By Spring 2026, expand partnerships with at least three new community organizations, foundations, or corporate sponsors to increase visibility of the APIDA Center. Partnerships may include workshops, scholarships, sponsorships, or collaborative events that increase the visibility and sustainability of the APIDA Center.

Goal 2: Increase student participation at the APIDA Center by 20% compared to Fall 2024 - Spring 2025 baseline numbers by implementing: 3 series of workshops, 3 direct impact student services (advising/tutoring/mental health), and 2 large events by Spring 2026.

Goal 3: By Spring 2026 create and sustain an APIDA Coalition that includes at least 7 APIDA-related student clubs and organizations on campus, meeting once per semester to plan collaborative events such as an annual APIDA Coalition Luncheon and APIDA Coalition Festival.

Campus Partners

- Integrated Advising w/ Academic Advising Center
- 8th Annual APIDA College Day w/ Career Center, Financial Aid Office, Admissions
- PRIDE x APIDA: Identity Showcase w/ The PRIDE Center
- SWANA x APIDA: Festival of Lights w/ The SWANA Center
- MLK x APIDA: Open House w/ The MLK Center
- APIDA Student Organization Coalition w/ SOAL – Student Organizations & Leadership
- Peer Wellness Advocates, Mental Health Workshops w/ Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services

Community Partners

- Surrounded by Success w/ Alumni and Industry Professionals
- Leadership Lunch, APIDA Graduation w/ Anh Phoong
- The California Gubernatorial Forum w/APAPA
- API Advocacy Day w/ API Advocates

- Grant Support w/ California Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Legislative Caucus
- APIDA Graduation w/ Golden Arch Enterprises
- APIA U Leadership, Cultural Workshops w/ OCA Sacramento

Assessment & Data Highlights

Assessment indicates that the APIDA Center serves as a critical hub for student engagement, belonging, support, and resource connection, the findings were:

- 63% of students reported that their primary reason for utilizing the APIDA Center is to find community and develop a sense of belonging.
- 85% of students reported feeling connected to and supported by APIDA Center staff and student leaders.
- 93% of students reported attending at least one APIDA Center event.
- 83% of participants reported increased confidence in navigating campus resources and opportunities as a result of their involvement with the APIDA Center.

Strategic Priorities & Future Goals

- **Short-Term Priorities (Next 1-2 years):**
    - Develop and implement a collaborative APIDA residence hall engagement strategy with Campus Life and Housing by Spring 2027, delivering a minimum of 12 residence hall-based programs annually focused on contributing to the student experience.
    - Develop and launch an annual APIDA signature fundraising event by Spring 2027, securing participation from at least 20 community organizations, sponsors, and donors while generating new support for APIDA Center programs, student leadership opportunities, and future initiatives.
    - Increase and sustain the APIDA Student Organization Coalition by Spring 2027, bringing together at least 15 APIDA-affiliated student organizations with over 800 student members to serve as touch points for student engagement opportunities across campus.
    - Enhance the partnership with Student Health, Counseling, and Wellness Services to integrate Peer Wellness Advocates into APIDA Center programs, services, and outreach efforts. By Spring 2027, increase student engagement with wellness programming and Peer Wellness Advocate services by 20%.

- **Long-Term Vision (3-5 years):**
    - Design and implement at least two fee-based educational or leadership development programs in Summer 2027 and Summer 2028, such as youth leadership camps, professional development institutes, or community workshops,

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generating supplemental revenue and donor sponsorships to support APIDA Center programming and student success initiatives.
- Develop and launch a fee-based APIDA Alumni Special Support Network by 2028 that engages at least 100 alumni through mentorship, networking, sponsorship, and philanthropic opportunities to support current students and APIDA Center initiatives.

- **Resource Needs & Support Requests**

  - Additional staffing support to continue supporting the diverse needs of APIDA students and increased student utilization, expand integrated student support services, strengthen assessment efforts, and enhance student engagement initiatives at the APIDA Center.

Assessment & Data-Driven Insights

- **Student Engagement & Success Metrics:**
  - Student utilization increased significantly, growing from 2,000 student visits and 452 distinct students served during Fall 2024–Spring 2025 to 4,040 student visits and 1,304 distinct students served during Fall 2025–Spring 2026, representing substantial growth in both engagement and reach.
  - 94% of students who utilized APIDA Center services during the 2025–2026 academic year remained enrolled for Fall 2026, indicating strong persistence among students connected to the Center's programs and services.

- **Use of Assessment for Improvement:**
  These assessment findings from the Student Needs and Experience Report will guide program planning, partnership development, and resource prioritization for the upcoming academic year as the APIDA Center continues to address the evolving needs of students.

  - 59.6% of students identified safe spaces and a sense of belonging as a primary need.
  - 56% of students indicated a desire for increased mental health and wellness resources.
  - 53.5% of students expressed interest in social gatherings and community-building opportunities.
  - 52.4% of students identified cultural heritage and history celebrations as important.
  - 49.3% of students requested career and workforce development opportunities.

- **Data Challenges & Needs**

- While assessment data indicate that 94% of APIDA Center participants remained enrolled for Fall 2026, additional data analysis is needed to better understand the direct relationship between APIDA Center engagement and student retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes.
- The APIDA Center seeks to strengthen assessment practices by identifying which programs, services, and engagement experiences have the greatest impact on student success, belonging, leadership development, and retention. Suggestions of a Cultural Academic Resource Center Dashboard are in progress.

Financial Overview

- **Budget Overview**
  - Total planned programming expenditures: approximately $19,800
    - Food: approximately $15,800
    - Swag/Promotional Items: approximately $4,000
  - Key investments
    - Student engagement and community-building activities.
    - Cultural and heritage celebrations.
    - Student success and retention programming.
    - Programs designed to increase belonging and participation.

- **Major Financial Challenges & Sustainability Considerations:**
  - Budget Realignment Opportunities – Expenditures are heavily concentrated in food-related expenses, creating opportunities to better align resources with strategic priorities while exploring alternative approaches to promote student engagement, participation, and long-term student success outcomes.
  - Diversifying Funding Sources – Continued exploration of sponsorships, community partnerships, donor engagement, grants, alumni support, and revenue-generating initiatives will be important to sustain program growth, expand student opportunities, and reduce reliance on operational funding.
  - Maximizing Return on Investment – Future budget planning should prioritize programs and services that demonstrate the greatest impact on student engagement, belonging, leadership development, retention, and overall student success.

Recommendations

- **Key Takeaways for Division Leadership**
  - Continue to invest in student belonging and culturally responsive support services, events, and workshops as assessment data continue to show that community, connection, and a sense of belonging are among the primary reasons

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students engage with the APIDA Center and contribute to positive student outcomes.

- Strengthen support for mental health and wellness initiatives, particularly culturally responsive and targeted approaches that improve student awareness, and access.
- Strengthen professional development and career readiness opportunities that connect students with mentors, alumni, employers, and community leaders to strengthen leadership development, workforce preparation, and post-graduate success in alignment with CSU Forward.
- Strengthen assessment efforts by creating a CARC Dashboard to better measure student engagement, belonging, retention, persistence, and graduation outcomes, allowing Cultural Academic Resource Centers to leverage data-informed decision-making.