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**REPORT REVEALS COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS SURROUNDING THE NEEDS OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*Joined by Congresswoman Judy Chu (CA-32<sup>nd</sup>), CARE unveils report ahead of APIASF Higher Education Summit at which education and civil rights stakeholders will develop policy recommendations to address findings*

WASHINGTON, DC – Today the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) released a [report](#), “Federal Higher Education Policy Priorities and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community,” that aims to raise awareness about the unique needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) student population.

“This report accomplishes two crucial goals,” said **Robert Teranishi, Associate Professor of Higher Education at New York University and Principal Investigator of the CARE Project**. “It brings attention to the pervasive invisibility of AAPI students who are misunderstood in higher education reform efforts. And it sheds light on how the AAPI population is relevant to America’s commitment to improving access and success in higher education.”

The report, which was funded by the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), dispels the myth that AAPI students are universally high achieving and do not need to be part of higher education policy discussions. In fact, large sectors of the AAPI population experience low high school graduation rates, high enrollment in community colleges and underrepresentation in certain sectors of the workforce. Congresswoman Judy Chu, a member of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, joined CARE and APIASF to underscore some of the findings and urgent needs of the AAPI community.

“Just like every other community in this country, AAPI’s deserve the access and support necessary for them to advance through higher education,” **Representative Judy Chu (D-CA)** stated. “We need to know where, why and how the AAPI population succeeds and struggles in our nation’s system of higher education - and that’s just what this report does. By understanding this report and implementing its recommendations, we’ll generate a higher education system that truly serves the AAPI community.”

The report exposes the invisible and misunderstood challenges the AAPI community faces in higher education and the workforce. It also examines the role of community colleges and Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) in combating these challenges. Following President Obama’s call for America to regain its lost ground in higher education, the report offers important policy recommendations in response to its findings.

“Increasing college access and completion is a national priority that dovetails with APIASF’s mission to make a difference in the lives of all AAPI students,” said **Neil Horikoshi, President & Executive Director of APIASF**. “This report demonstrates the need that exists within that community and provides a better foundation for creating policy that will ensure educational equity. To achieve President Obama’s goal of making the U.S. the leader in college graduation rate by 2020, we must not overlook any of America’s youth due to long held misconceptions.”

Not only does the report demonstrate that misconceptions about high AAPI achievement are categorically false, but it delves into the deep challenges faced by AAPI sub-groups. Large sectors of the population suffer from steep high school drop-out rates, low rates of college participation, and even lower college completion rates. As a result, the unemployment rates of Pacific Islanders (Tongans, Samoans, and Native Hawai’ians) and Southeast Asians (Hmong, Laotian, Cambodians, and Vietnamese) are three to five times greater than those of Japanese, Sri Lankans, Thai,

Chinese, Asian Indians, Filipinos, and Koreans.

"We must be mindful that AAPI students face disparities in their college and postgraduate experiences," said **Michelle Cooper, President of the Institute for Higher Education Policy**. "The research of the CARE Commission is critical to bringing much needed attention to AAPI students whose unique needs oftentimes go unnoticed when targeted interventions are being developed for other underrepresented students."

Community colleges and AANAPISIs have made great strides in educating underserved AAPI populations. Community colleges serve predominantly older students with greater financial need at a concentrated number of institutions in several geographic centers. AANAPISI schools serve a similarly concentrated population. Just eight campuses serve 10% of the AAPI undergraduate population.

The following are among the report's recommendations to overcome these obstacles:

- The public, private, and non-profit sectors must acknowledge and respond to the lack of AAPIs in certain occupational sectors and the lack of AAPIs in leadership and decision-making positions generally.
- Colleges and universities need to hire more AAPI faculty, administrators, and student affairs professionals.
- AAPIs should be included in pipeline programs that target the underrepresentation of minority students in key occupational sectors.
- Institutions and organizations need to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach to community college students and their families.
- It needs to be made clear that the definition of "Minority-Serving Institutions" includes AANAPISIs so these institutions can gain access to opportunities and resources for designated MSIs.

The report will be formally released at the first annual Higher Education Summit, convened by APIASF which will bring together a multi-cultural group of political leaders, higher education researchers and administrators, representatives from the private and government sectors, community organizations and students, to generate a dialogue on AAPI students in higher education.

[Click here](#) to read the full report.

*About APIASF:*

*Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted solely to providing scholarships for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA). Since 2003, APIASF has provided a critical bridge to higher education for APIA students across the country by awarding more than \$3 million in scholarships to deserving students. APIASF manages two scholarship programs: APIASF's general scholarship and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. APIASF's first annual Higher Education Summit is made possible through the generous support of our presenting sponsors: Walmart and USA Funds. For more information on APIASF, please visit [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org).*

*About CARE:*

*The National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) was formed through a collaboration of the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at New York University, the Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy at New York University, and the College Board. For more information on CARE, please visit <http://www.nyu.edu/projects/care>.*

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