



Fact Sheet

Background

- The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) was established by a coalition of corporate and national community leaders to ensure that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have a national scholarship organization that is devoted solely to the educational needs of their respective communities.
- APIASF is supported by other major scholarship programs including the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the United Negro College Fund, the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars and Gates Millennium Scholars.

Defining the Need

- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 12.6% of Asian Americans and 17.7% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders live below the official poverty line.
- Although more than 44 percent of Asian Americans hold bachelor's degrees compared to only 26 percent of all Americans, only a small percentage of Pacific Islanders and Southeast Asians have college degrees. According to the 2000 Census, 7.4% of Hmong, 9.1% of Cambodians, 19.5% of Vietnamese and 16.5% of Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders aged 25 years and older attained a bachelor's degree or higher.
- Major corporations have inquired about a national pan-APIA scholarship organization for years. Since none currently exists, valuable funding support for scholarships that could be awarded to potential Asian and Pacific Islander American students may have been lost.

Name

- The scholarship program shall be known as the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF).
- The URL domain name shall be: www.apiasf.org.

Headquarters

- APIASF is based in Washington, DC.
- APIASF will be incorporated in Washington, DC.
- Field offices may be opened in other major cities where there are large Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.

Vision

- *Our vision is to see all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans who wish to pursue higher education have that opportunity, regardless of ethnicity, national origin or financial means.*

Mission Statement

- *To forge partnerships building a national Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship program that supports and encourages all APIA students to pursue higher education, thereby developing future leaders who will contribute back to their communities, and ultimately, strengthening America.*

Prospects for Success

- The attainment of an education continues to be one of the top three values among Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.
- More than 100 corporations, foundations and school districts support the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the United Negro College Fund. These corporations and foundations could also support a national scholarship organization devoted to Asian and Pacific Islander American students.
- The Asian McDonald's Operators Association, in tandem with Ronald McDonald House Charities, has administered scholarship programs for more than a decade and have experience with fundraising and community outreach.
- The member organizations of the Asian Pacific Islander Americans Advisory Committee to the Gates Millennium Scholars program administered by the Organization of Chinese Americans have years of scholarship programming experience.

Early Support

- APIA Advisory Committee to the Gates Millennium Scholars program, including:
 - Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
 - Organization of Chinese Americans
 - Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
 - University of Hawai'i Native Hawaiian Community - Based Education Learning Centers
- Asian McDonald's Operators Association
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Former U.S. Congressman Robert Underwood
- McDonald's Corporation
- United Negro College Fund
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- American Indian Graduate Center Scholars

Initial Founding Board

- Positions community organizations such as the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) in light of its role as the Gates Millennium Scholars partner, and the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) and other organizations representing the Pacific Islander community, the two most underrepresented groups of the APIA community, on the board of directors for no less than 10 years.
- Board membership will be comprised of no less than 11 members and no more than 25, as stipulated in the Bylaws.
- The Board will seek to represent the diversity within the community, as well as the expertise in the community.

Official Launch

- Winter-Spring, 2004.
- Primary community launch cities include: Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Honolulu, Minneapolis/St. Paul, Boston, Charlotte, Seattle, Houston, and Washington, DC.
- Launch events will include community/civic/government receptions and press conferences.
- Fundraising and infrastructure support will occur between 2003-4.
- First national scholarships to be awarded in 2005.

Fundraising Goal

- \$3 million by 2005.

Quotes from Community Leaders

"There is no greater obligation we have than to ensure educational opportunities for the next generation. The development of the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund is a major step forward for our community and the fulfillment of the potential of generations yet unborn. We want to make our dreams come true and we want to contribute our intellectual resources to the development of the country. The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund will help make America a better place."

- Robert Underwood
Former U.S. Congressman

"Asian and Pacific Islander Americans continue to be underrepresented in government, in corporate senior management, and in major non-profit organizations around the country. It is refreshing to hear that two leading American corporations—McDonald's and Coca-Cola—are joining together to

ensure that Asian and Pacific Islander Americans will have opportunities to pursue careers in these and other critical areas.”

- Karen Narasaki, Esq.
President and Executive Director
National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium

“Having a vital APIA Scholarship Program would go a long ways toward achieving the American dream for many Asian and Pacific Islander American students. The myth of the “model minority” high achieving APIA students has to be tempered by the reality of families who need help for the child who is to be the first in the family to attend college, by the reality of immigrant families who need support to navigate the educational establishment to get their children to the higher education doorstep. The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund would be one solution to these and other problems faced by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.”

- Tim T. L. Dong, Ph.D.
President
Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education
MiraCosta College

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