



HELP ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS: A CALL TO ACTION FOR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATORS, HIGHER EDUCATION LEADERS, AND POLICYMAKERS

The “We’re the Changing Face of America” campaign is a national public awareness effort dedicated to increasing access and completion among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, the fastest-growing student population in U.S. colleges and universities. Launched in March 2013 by the **Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund** and the **National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education**—the leading AAPI student- and research-focused organizations, respectively—the campaign works through strategic partnerships with colleges and universities to help ensure that past access and success challenges experienced by the AAPI student population do not continue. The campaign supports the **Partnership for Equity in Education through Research** project.

AAPIs and Higher Education

The face of American education from K–12 to higher education is at the crossroads of a tremendous demographic change. According to the 2010 U.S. Census data, the AAPI population is projected to reach nearly 40 million people by 2050. Data also show AAPI students will experience a 35 percent increase in college enrollment over the next decade. AAPI students are undoubtedly a rapidly growing population; and, therefore, supporting them can only produce greater civic engagement, economic growth, and leadership development.

Unfortunately, college completion remains elusive for many young AAPI students. This student population experiences harsh realities and unique challenges that hinder them from gaining access to higher education and/or earning a college degree. Although nearly half of all AAPI students enrolled in higher education are attending community colleges, they are more likely to enter with lower levels of academic preparation in English and mathematics. For example, 55.2 percent of AAPI students entering two-year colleges in 2003 had never taken a math course beyond Algebra II in high school, compared to only 12.7 percent of AAPI students entering four-year institutions in that same year.

A CALL FOR ACTION

The “We’re the Changing Face of America” campaign urges campus administrators, higher education leaders, and policymakers to take immediate action:

- **ACTION STEP #1: Invest more in colleges and universities that serve AAPI students.** Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, or AANAPISIs, enroll and confer degrees to a large concentration of the nation’s AAPI undergraduate students. It is essential to build capacity to better understand and respond to these institutions’ unique needs.
- **ACTION STEP #2: Increase federal and state financial resources for widespread AAPI student access and success.** America’s colleges and universities must prepare adequately for the large and growing 1.3 million AAPI student population, particularly because these students often have the lowest educational attainment rates and some of the highest poverty rates in the country.
- **ACTION STEP #3: Give more attention to understanding AAPI students.** Policymakers and higher education leaders should expand their knowledge about and be more responsive to the AAPI community, rather than believe and act upon longstanding stereotypes and perceptions that hinder AAPI students from gaining access to higher education and/or earning a college degree.

**For more information about the “We’re the Changing Face of America” campaign visit:
www.changingfaceofamerica.com**



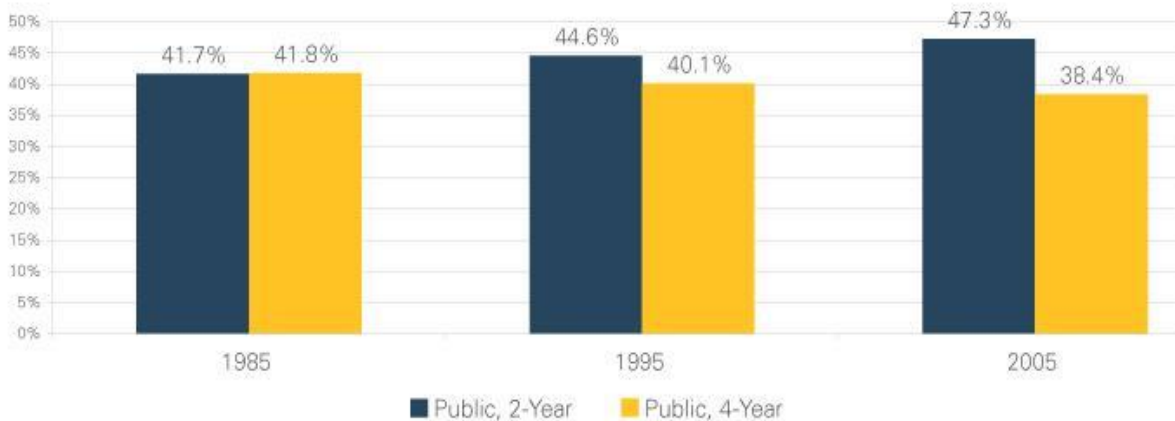
FACTS ABOUT ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER-SERVING INSTITUTIONS

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Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, by the Numbers

The face of American education from K–12 to higher education is at the crossroads of tremendous demographic changes. According to the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) are responding to this 21st century challenge. AANAPISIs are Minority-Serving Institutions designated by Congress that have at least a 10 percent enrollment of students and have a significant number of AAPI students who are Pell Grant eligible, among other criteria.

Figure 6. Percent of AAPI Total Enrollment in Public Two-Year and Public Four-Year Institutions, 1985 to 2005



Source: U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS.

- There are 21 AANAPISIs that have received federal funding and a total of 150 that meet the criteria set by Congress. Most AANAPISIs are two year institutions—combined they enroll 41 percent of all AAPI undergraduates and conferred 47.3 percent of associate’s degrees.
- AANAPISI institutions are critical sites for addressing the most significant challenges facing AAPIs in higher education.

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- They strive to understand and respond to the unique needs of low-income AAPI students.
- They are developing new and modifying existing programs to optimize the experiences and outcomes of AAPI students.
- They are in a unique position to design and test ways to monitor and track AAPI student enrollment and outcomes.
- AANAPISIs are critical sites for serving the most overlooked and underserved AAPI communities.
- AANAPISIs can help change how AAPIs are treated by the higher education community, including institutions, systems, states, and the federal government.

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SOURCE: *The Relevance of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the College Completion Agenda 2011*, National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education.



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Asian American and Pacific Islander Students by the Numbers, by the Numbers

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Figure 3. AAPI Public K-12 Enrollment (Actual and Projected)

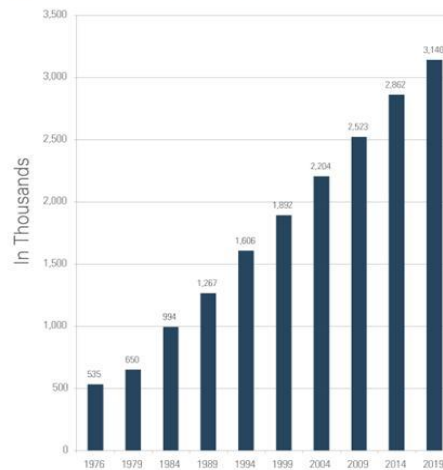
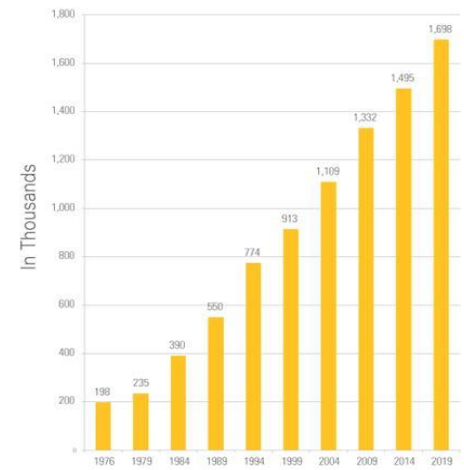


Figure 4. AAPI Undergraduate Enrollment (Actual and Projected)



Note: Actual data, 1979-2009; projected data, 2014 and 2019.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Common Core Data; U.S. Department of Education, IPEDS.

Population

- AAPIs have a high degree of representation in California (Los Angeles and San Francisco), Hawai'i (Honolulu), Illinois (Chicago), New York (New York City), Washington (Seattle), and Texas (Houston).
- It is well documented, however, that many AAPI ethnic groups have educational levels that are below the national average, with several ranking among the lowest in the nation.
- In addition, 13 percent of Asian Americans and 17 percent of Pacific Islanders live in poverty compared to 12 percent of the general population, with several Asian American ethnic groups having poverty rates significantly higher than many other ethnic groups in the United States.

College Attendance and Participation

- AAPIs have a wide variation in college participation and degree attainment that includes some subgroups (out of 48 ethnicities in the AAPI community) being more likely to attend community colleges and less selective institutions—resulting in significant differences in degree attainment rates within the AAPI student population.

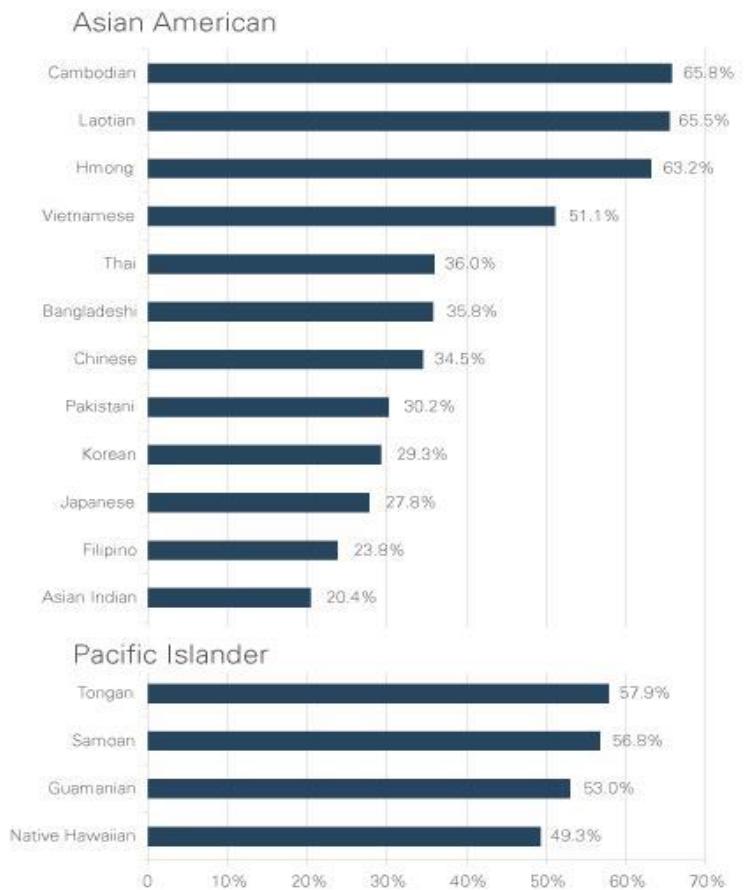
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- While more than four out of five East Asians (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) and South Asians (Asian Indian and Pakistani) who enrolled in college earned at least a bachelor's degree, large proportions of other AAPI subgroups are attending college, but not earning a degree.
- Among Southeast Asians, 33.7 percent of Vietnamese, 42.9 percent of Cambodians, 46.5 percent of Laotians, and 47.5 percent of Hmong adults (25 years or older) reported having attended college, but not earning a degree.
- Similar to Southeast Asians, Pacific Islanders have a very high rate of attrition during college. Among Pacific Islanders, 47.0 percent of Guamanians, 50.0 percent of Native Hawaiians, 54.0 percent of Tongans, and 58.1 percent of Samoans entered college, but left without earning a degree. Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders also had a higher proportion of college attendees who earned an associate's degree as their highest level of education, while East Asians and South Asians were more likely to have a bachelor's degree or advanced degree.

Community College Attendance and Participation

- The largest sector of AAPI college enrollment, at 47.3 percent, was in the community college sector in 2005. While AAPIs made up less than five (5) percent of the national population in 2007, they represented nearly seven (7) percent of all community college students.
- AAPI community college students were also more likely to enter college with lower levels of academic preparation in English and mathematics. In 2003, 55.2 percent of AAPI students entering two-year colleges had never taken a math course beyond Algebra II in high school, compared to only 12.7 percent of AAPI students entering four-year institutions in that same year.
- AAPI community college students are concentrated in a small number of institutions; 80 percent attend institutions in just eight states (see the list of states above), with the majority concentrated at community colleges in California, Hawai'i, and New York.

Figure 5. Percentage of Adults (25 Years or Older) Who Have Not Attended College, by AAPI Ethnicity 2006-2008



Note: Data includes individuals with high school attainment as their highest level of education. It does not include individuals with some college and no degree.
 Source: American Community Survey, 3-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

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