

NEWS RELEASE

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NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS WHO ATTEND COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Washington, D.C., Aug. 1, 2012—The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students, is now accepting applications for the **APIASF Community College Scholarship Program**. The organization's new scholarship opportunity—ranging from \$2,250 to \$5,000 each during the 2012-13 academic school year—is available to 155 full-time, degree-seeking AAPI students who are enrolled at either City College of San Francisco, Coastline Community College, De Anza College, or South Seattle Community College.

The APIASF Community College Scholarship Program applicants must be of AAPI ethnicity as defined by the U.S. Department of Census and must be a citizen, national, or legal permanent resident of the United States or a citizen of the U.S. Freely Associated States. Other eligibility requirements include applicants submitting a request for federal financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)—although applicants do not necessarily need to be recipients of federal financial aid to be eligible for the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program. The application deadline is Oct. 12, 2012.

"We've known for some time that the largest population of AAPI college enrollment, at 47.3 percent, is in the community college sector; therefore, our goal has always been to work toward creating significant opportunities at those type of institutions for students to access, complete, and succeed in postsecondary education," said APIASF President & Executive Director Neil Horikoshi. "For those reasons, we created the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program as a natural extension of our efforts to not only increase overall AAPI student success, but to

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develop scalable models for training future leaders who will excel in their career, serve as role models in their communities, and will ultimately contribute to a vibrant America.”

Additionally, the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program supports the new **Partnership for Equity in Education through Research (PEER) project**, which APIASF along with the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) launched recently to help realize the full degree-earning potential of the AAPI student population. Considered one of the largest investments to date to increase AAPI student success, the PEER project is a three-year, nearly \$2 million effort being supported by The Kresge Foundation, USA Funds, and the Walmart Foundation. The PEER project also works collaboratively with three of the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program institutions: De Anza College, City College of San Francisco, and South Seattle Community College.

The APIASF Community College Scholarship Program is being supported by The Coca-Cola Company, USA Funds, Walmart, and Wells Fargo.

The APIASF Community College Scholarship Program scholarship recipients will be announced in January 2013.

To apply or for additional details about the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program, visit APIASF’s website at www.apiasf.org. Also, follow APIASF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/apiasf) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/apiasf). More information about the PEER project can also be found on APIASF’s website and by visiting CARE’s website at www.nyu.edu/projects/care/pp.html.

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About APIASF

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). APIASF works to create opportunities for students to access, complete, and succeed after post-secondary education; thereby developing future leaders who will excel in their career, serve as role models in their communities, and will ultimately contribute to a vibrant America. Since 2003, APIASF has distributed more than \$60 million in scholarships to deserving AAPI 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.

About CARE

The National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE), consisting of a national commission, research advisory group, and research team at New York University, aims to engage realistic and actionable discussions about the mobility and educational opportunities for Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) and how distinctions of race, ethnicity, language, and other factors play out in the day-to-day operations of America's education system. Our goal is to provide much needed and timely research on key issues and trends related to access and participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in higher education.