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APIASF AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO ASIAN AMERICAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Washington, D.C., Jan. 30, 2013—Many Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community college students will now have a better opportunity to access and succeed at their college after being named as recipients of the **Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) Community College Scholarship Program**. APIASF announced today its awarding 135 full-time, degree-seeking AAPI students with \$2,500 scholarships to support their 2012–13 academic school year at City College of San Francisco, De Anza College, or South Seattle Community College.

“Since 2003, APIASF has distributed more than \$60 million in college scholarships to more than 6,000 students from across the country and in the Pacific Islands. The APIASF Community College Scholarship Program is a natural extension of our efforts to help the most underserved AAPI students finish college,” said APIASF President & Executive Director Neil Horikoshi. “The message today is clear: With nearly 50 percent of all AAPI students enrolled in higher education attending community colleges, APIASF’s scholarship programs are critical to supporting the educational endeavors of AAPI students to ensure that our nation has a diverse pipeline of skilled workers.”

Scholarships were given to 45 students at each of the three institutions. More than 60 percent of the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program recipients are the first generation in their families to attend college and 70 percent of them come from families with incomes less than \$30,000 a year. The scholars also represent many of the diverse ethnic groups within the AAPI community, including Burmese, Cambodian, Chamorro, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Native Hawaiian, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Samoan, Thai, Tongan, and Vietnamese.

In addition, the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program supports the Partnership for Equity in Education through Research (PEER) project—a three-year, \$2 million effort to help realize the full degree-earning potential of the

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APIASF...2

AAPI student population through scholarships, institutional capacity-building, and institutional collaboration based on research. APIASF, along with its research partner, the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE), are spearheading the PEER project while working collaboratively with City College of San Francisco, De Anza College, and South Seattle Community College.

The APIASF Community College Scholarship Program is supported by The Coca-Cola Foundation, USA Funds, Walmart, and Wells Fargo. Funding for the PEER project is provided by The Kresge Foundation, USA Funds, the Walmart Foundation, and Lumina Foundation.

Earlier this month, as part of the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program, the organization announced it also awarded \$5,000 to five students attending Coastline Community College.

To learn more about the scholarship recipients or for more information 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). Details about the PEER project can also be found on APIASF's website and by visiting CARE's website at www.nyu.edu/projects/care.

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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.