

NEWS RELEASE

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APIASF AND CARE'S "PARTNERSHIP FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION THROUGH RESEARCH" PROJECT RECEIVES NEW GRANT TO BOOST COLLEGE SUCCESS FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER COLLEGE STUDENTS

Partnership with the Kresge Foundation Offers Additional Support to Advance National Effort for AAPI College Student Access and Success

Washington, D.C., March 13, 2014—In the second year of a national three-year initiative to bring additional attention to and improve educational outcomes for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) college students, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) and the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) continue their work with the Partnership for Equity in Education through Research (PEER) project. Through an ongoing partnership with the Kresge Foundation, APIASF and CARE recently received a grant to expand the PEER project's efforts—broadening the foundation's support of innovation in higher education, especially for colleges and universities that disproportionately serve high concentrations of underserved AAPI students and other ethnic/minority students.

The Kresge Foundation grant further advances the PEER project's activities of providing scholarships, institutional capacity-building, and institutional collaboration based on research—all designed to help AAPI students realize their full degree-earning potential. Also, the grant supports the PEER project's collaborative work via select Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)—schools with the designation of minority-serving institutions that enroll large populations of AAPI students—allowing for more robust dissemination of research about the significance of AANAPISIs and their role of improving outcomes for low-income AAPI students. AANAPISI partners of the PEER project include the City College of San Francisco, De Anza College, and South Seattle Community College.

"Our PEER project is intended to inform the work of others—including higher education leaders, policymakers, and advocates—so they can become agents of change who help AAPI students. However, funding isn't always available, especially with today's economy," said Neil Horikoshi, APIASF president & executive director. "We want every student to have access to quality education and support services, and thanks to our partnership with the Kresge Foundation, more AAPI students—along with other underserved, ethnic/minority students—will continue to receive these benefits through the efforts of the PEER project."

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The PEER project was launched in June 2012. To ensure the PEER project successfully meets its goals, APIASF and CARE also created the “We’re the Changing Face of America” campaign—dedicated to increasing access and completion among AAPI students, the fastest-growing student population in U.S. colleges and universities. Introduced in March 2013, the campaign works through strategic partnerships to help ensure that access and success challenges experienced by the AAPI student population do not continue.

“Minority-serving institutions play a critical role in the college completion agenda, educating many low-income, first generation, and students of color,” says Chera Reid, Kresge Foundation program officer. “The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund and the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education, through their PEER project, document the very real needs of Asian American Pacific Islander students. Their data provide new, evidence-based insights on how minority-serving institutions are innovating to improve student success within this population.”

Additional funding for the PEER project was received early on from USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, and Lumina Foundation. To date, the PEER project has become one of the largest investments in history in support of the AAPI student population, receiving more than \$2 million.

To learn more about the PEER project, visit APIASF’s website at www.apiasf.org and CARE’s website at www.nyu.edu/projects/care. Also, follow APIASF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/apiasf) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/apiasf). Details about the “We’re the Changing Face of America” campaign can be found by visiting www.changingfaceofamerica.com.

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About the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation’s largest non-profit provider of 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 \$70 million in scholarships to AAPI students across the country and in the Pacific Islands. APIASF manages three scholarship programs: APIASF’s general scholarship, the APIASF Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions scholarship program, and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

About the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education

The National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) identifies and examines key issues affecting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) student access and success in U.S. higher education. The CARE project is informed by a national commission, consisting of K-12 and higher education professionals, policymakers and public officials, researchers and leaders of advocacy organizations, as well as a research advisory group and a research team. CARE aims to assess AAPI participation in higher education across various U.S. regions with consideration for the differences in socioeconomic, ethnic and national backgrounds among these students.

About the Kresge Foundation

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3 billion private, national foundation that works to expand opportunities in America’s cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, and community development efforts in Detroit. In 2013, the Board of Trustees approved 316 awards totaling \$122 million; \$128 million was paid out to grantees over the course of the year. In addition, our Social Investment Practice made commitments totaling \$16 million in 2013. For more information, visit kresge.org.