The Case for AANAPISIs

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) play a unique role in supporting low-income, first generation Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) students. As federally designated Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), AANAPISIs cultivate environments that promote the success of underserved APIA students by attending to their distinct needs. In order to advance postsecondary equity and workforce outcomes for the rapidly increasing APIA student population, it is critical to understand the true diversity of this community.

A Diverse and Growing Community

APIAs are the Fastest-Growing Racial Group

More than 48 Ethnicities Represented

On track to being the Largest Immigrant Group in the U.S. by 2055 (46 Million)

Over 300 Spoken Languages

Diverse Needs Among APIA Groups

Educational attainment varies widely among APIA ethnic groups.

More than 60% of Bhutanese and Burmese have Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and almost half of Vietnamese, Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Chinese are also LEP.

Bachelor Degree Attainment by Ethnic Group:

- 4% Marshallese
- 19% Chamorro
- 50% Filipino
- 75% Asian Indian
- 15% Bhutanese
- 32% Vietnamese
- 56% Chinese

Source
Eligible AANAPISIs must meet several criteria as outlined in Section 312(b) of the Higher Education Act, which include: 1) Undergraduate enrollment is at least 10 percent APIA students, 2) Enrollment of at least 50 percent of students with low-economic background, and 3) institutions maintain low average of educational and general expenditures.

**Funding**

As AANAPISIs continue to be the least funded MSI designation, underrepresented AA&NHPIs remain one of the most underserved college student populations in the United States and U.S. Affiliated Pacific Islands.*

**Impact**

While AANAPISI*** campuses make up only 6.1 percent of all U.S. colleges and universities, they enroll NEARLY HALF of all AANHPI students in the country.

“AANAPISIs provided me with a community by supporting programs such as the Full Circle Project which not only helped me embraced my Asian American identity, but also shaped me into a confident leader and student that I am today.”

- Jomari Fernandez  
California State University, Sacramento

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*This figure is presented not to promote competition or invalidate necessary funding among MSIs. Rather, it is intended to demonstrate the limited funding AANAPISIs have and continue to receive. It is critical to note, any increase in AANAPISI funding should not come at the expense of other MSIs' current or potential federal financial support.


**Includes past & current grantees and all eligible past and current AANAPISIs.