

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2011

College Celebrates Asian American Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month

Event schedule includes visit from White House Deputy Director.

The month of May is nationally designated as Asian Pacific Islander (API) Heritage Month, during which API diversity, achievements and contributions are recognized and commemorated. South Seattle Community College, one of just six colleges in the nation to be designated an API-Serving Institution, will celebrate with a variety of month-long events.

All events take place on the South Seattle Community Campus, are free of charge and open to the public. The campus is located at 6000-16th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98106. Driving directions: www.southseattle.edu/campus/map.htm#scc. Take Metro routes 125 or 128 for front-door service to South.

Tuesday, May 3: Curtis Chin and the film *Vincent Who?*

- 11 - 11:50 am (Little Theater- RAH 125): Film Screening
- 12 - 12:50 pm (Little Theater – RAH 125): Campus-at-large discussion
- 6:30 - 8:30 pm (Olympic Hall 120): Community Screening and Discussion
- Sponsored by the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant
- Contact: Bob Dela-Cruz, rcruz@sccd.ctc.edu

Screening of the film *Vincent Who?* with film producer Curtis Chin. The film documents the murder of Vincent Chin at the height of anti-Japanese sentiments in Detroit in the 1980's by two autoworkers. When the judge fined the killers a mere \$3,000 and three years of probation, Asian Americans around the country galvanized to form a community and movement. This documentary, features interviews with key players at the time to raise awareness and activism for the Asian Pacific American community, as well as a whole new generation of activists. "Vincent Who?" asks how far Asian Americans have come since then and how far we have yet to go.

Friday, May 6: White House Initiative on AAPIs Deputy Director, Christina Lagdameo

- 10:30 am - 12 pm (RS 30): Campus-wide Forum for Students, Faculty and Staff
- Contact: Rosie Rimando, rosie.rimando@seattlecolleges.edu

The White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders Deputy Director Christina Lagdameo will be visiting South Seattle Community College, one of the first colleges to be designated an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. In 2009, President Obama reestablished the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders. The Initiative works to improve the quality of life and opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by facilitating increased access to and participation in programs where they remain underserved. Deputy Director Christina Lagdameo will share her own story in education, her role in the White House, and discuss the state of education on a national level.

Saturday, May 7: APIA U Student Leadership Training

- 8:30 am – 6 pm (Olympic Hall 206)
 - Student Registration: www.bit.ly/SeattleAPIAU
 - One-day free leadership training for students in the region
- Sponsored by Student Life and Diversity/Retention, Organization of Chinese Americans
- Contact: Chanda Ishisaka, chanda.ishisaka@seattlecolleges.edu

The Organization of Chinese Americans hosts a series of Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) college leadership trainings across the country. This year, South Seattle Community College is hosting the training for the Pacific Northwest region. According to OCA National President Ken Lee, “APIA U: Leadership 101 provides an invaluable opportunity for college students around the country to come together and dialogue about APIA issues, identity, and leadership.” Pre-registration is required.

Tuesday, May 17: Asian American Pacific Islander Empowerment Workshop

- 9 – 11 am (Brockey Center A)
- Sponsored by Student Life and Diversity/Retention, AANAPISI Grant, and Japanese American Citizens League
- Contact: Chanda Ishisaka, chanda.ishisaka@seattlecolleges.edu

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) presents the Asian Pacific American (APA) Empowerment Series at South Seattle Community College to help college students get involved in the community. Whether students are considering a career in politics, government, or non-profit works, this workshop provides an opportunity for them to engage with local community leaders.

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