

**Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice signed by over 1,000 Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars, and students**

In just one week, more than 1,000 Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars and students co-signed the Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice. As protests echoing the call of #BlackLivesMatter continue around the country and the world, AAPIDA educators and scholars condemned the long history of state-sanctioned violence against Black people in the United States, such as the killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, against other racialized and indigenous communities, and against those who fight for justice.

In the spirit of activists such as Yuri Kochiyama and Grace Lee Boggs who championed Asian-Black solidarity and comradeship, individuals and organizations alike signed the letter to pledge their commitment to fundamentally change legal, cultural, civic, economic, and educational institutions to combat racism, violence, and inequity, as well as to address anti-Blackness within AAPIDA communities. As supporters of and participants in these struggles for social justice, they represent fields such as Asian American Studies, Law, Health Sciences, and Film, from institutions in California, Hawaii, New York, Oregon, Massachusetts and more.

*For media inquiries, please contact [events@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:events@aasc.ucla.edu).*

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**Statement in Solidarity with African Americans in the Fight for Justice**

As Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American (AAPIDA) educators, scholars, and students, we express our solidarity with those fighting to end state violence against African Americans and other racialized and indigenous communities. We also commit ourselves to this struggle as we understand that state violence has a long history tracing back to the time of enslaved peoples and settler colonialism on these occupied lands.

We convey our deepest condolences to the Floyd family and all their relations. We grieve with them because we know that George Floyd is not alone. For decades, police killings of Black persons have been unrelenting, despite demands for legal, institutional and legislative changes to ensure that Black lives matter.

There is a history of Black-Asian and Third World solidarity during the turbulent sixties, when members of AAPIDA communities locked arms in the movement for a better world free of racial inequality and exploitation. We recognize the decades of struggle against violence and for freedom by African Americans that has protected and expanded civil rights for all of us. We also know that racial solidarity work is not easy, as we continue to combat anti-Blackness to this day. Even within

AAPIIDA communities, there are divides to overcome. But this moment in history requires us to come together against injustice.

We believe that the murder of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers is a gross violation of basic human rights to life and dignity. All four officers, including the three bystanders that include an Asian American officer, must be held culpable. A full investigation into the institutional culture, history of police complaints, and policies that have allowed misconduct to go unpunished should be pursued. This process needs to be transparent and transformative. We must stand with the Floyd family and the efforts to change the fundamental role of police in Black and Brown communities as an occupying force and the systemic inequities within our society that devalue human lives.

We hope that fellow members of our diverse Asian American, Pacific Islander and Desi American communities will join in the growing movements to uphold civil rights and civil liberties, including support for justice in the case of George Floyd. This includes fighting anti-Blackness within our own communities. We ask those who recognized the pain he suffered to reach across the racial divide so that yet another life is not lost in vain. As the pandemic will lead to severe cuts in government programs, we know public accountability, democracy, and community empowerment is even more vital. We need to work together to move forward an agenda for change across the country.

With heavy hearts and an endless belief in justice, we hold hope in unity.

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*Organizational Signatures (collected as of June 11, 2020)*

AAPI Educator Pipeline

Asian American and Asian Studies Department, De Anza College

Asian American Pacific Islander Law Students Association (APILSA) - UCLA

Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA)

Asian American Transnational Research Initiative

Asian and Asian American Arts and Culture Program, UMass Fine Arts Center

Asian Pacific American Student Development Office at UC Berkeley

Asian Pacific Islander Caucus at UCLA Luskin

Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council

Asian Pacific-Islander Graduate Student Alliance (APIGSA) - UCSB

Asian-Pacific Studies Program, California State University, Dominguez Hills

Associated Students of UC Irvine (ASUCI)  
Association of Harvard Asian and Asian American Faculty and Staff  
BRIDGE: Pilipinx Outreach & Retention  
California Faculty Association - API Caucus  
California State University, Northridge - Asian American Studies  
Center for Asian American Theology and Ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary  
CSU East Bay Asian Pacific Islander Faculty & Staff Association  
Department of Native Hawaiian Health, University of Hawaii  
Deviant Voices A Cappella  
ELEVATE AAPI @ Irvine Valley College  
Emory Asian Pacific Islander Desi-American Activists (APIDAA)  
Filipino American Educators Association of CA  
Filipinx Social Work Network  
Full Circle Project at Sacramento State  
Fullchange Therapy  
Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies  
NASPA Asian Pacific Islander Knowledge Community  
Nikkei Student Union - UC Santa Barbara  
Pacific Ties Newsmagazine  
Pilipinos for Community Health at UCLA  
Reappropriate  
ReModel Minority at the Wright Institute  
Samahang Pilipino - UCLA  
South Asian Law Students Association - UCLA  
Students Against Hindutva Ideology (SAHI) at UCLA  
UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
UCLA Asian Pacific American Law Journal (APALJ)  
UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge  
UCLA Labor Center  
UCLAforAll  
UConn Asian American Cultural Center  
UCSB Asian Resource Center (ARC)  
University of Massachusetts Lowell Office of Multicultural Affairs  
University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Asian American Studies

*Individual Signatures (Collected as of June 11, 2020 - Affiliations are for identification purposes only)*

Daniel Abad, UCLA Student  
Autoosa Abadi, Social Worker  
Samia Abbasi, Kulfi Beauty  
Kassandra Abellana, Graduate Student  
Kristen Abernathy, Samahang Pilipino - UCLA, Activities Coordinator 2019-2020  
Yasmeen Abushahla, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of San Diego  
Mayrose Acob, Ally  
Jerald Adamos, Educator

Amanda Adolfo, UCLA  
Priyanka Agarwal, UCLA, Postdoctoral scholar  
Amy Agbayani, University of Hawaii, Emeritus Assistant VC Diversity  
Czar Agcaoili, Student  
Randall Akee, UCLA, Associate Professor  
Juliana Alden, UH Department of Psychiatry Research Assistant  
Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson, California State University, Long Beach, Associate Professor  
Rachel Almero, Student  
Crispina Caroline Ampane, Bunker Hill Community College, Assistant Professor  
Akhila Ananth, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice & Criminalistics  
Donna Anderson, UC Santa Barbara, Graduate Student  
Juliann Anesi, UCLA, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies  
Bianca Anonas  
Anthony Lising Antonio, Stanford University  
Erin Aoyama, Brown University, Ph.D. Student  
Elisha-Rio Apilado, Graduate Student  
Gianna Apoderado, UCLA Student  
Nicole Aquisap, Kapatirang Pilipino - UCSB, General Member  
Andy Arciaga, University of California, Santa Barbara, Undergraduate Student  
Jolynn Asato, San Jose State University, Lecturer - Teacher Education Department  
Kiran Asher Asher, University of Massachusetts, Professor  
Nina Asher, Professor  
Joanna Augenbergs, Stanford University, Assistant Director, GSB  
Dear Aunaetitrakul, Northeastern Illinois University, Assistant Director, Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity & Intercultural Affairs  
Salem Awwad, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life  
Mike Baccam, University of Washington Press, Associate Acquisitions Editor  
Aaron Bae, Arizona State University  
Leanne Bagood, UCLA, Student  
Crystal Baik, University of California, Riverside, Assistant Professor  
Jaydeep Balakrishnan, California State University, Sacramento, Associate Dean  
Nerissa S. Balce, SUNY Stony Brook, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies  
Rick Baldoz, Oberlin College  
Eric Banh, California State University Employees Union, Staff  
Jerice Banola, Undergraduate  
Clarisse Barrion, Student  
Marina Basu  
Kau'i Baumhofer, University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, Assistant Professor of Indigenous Health Sciences  
Aurora Bautista, Bunker Hill Community College, Professor and Activity Coordinator AANAPISI grant  
Christopher Cedric Bautista, UCLA, Student  
Katelyn Bautista, Samahang Pilipino - UCLA, General Member  
Amoneta Beck, Webster University Thailand, Counseling Center Director  
Eugenia Beh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Conrad Benedicto, San Francisco Unified School District, Teacher  
Ivan Benitez, Kababayan at UCI, Secretary  
Jessica Benson, Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Charity Bernardes-Malahay, LCSW

Joseph Bernardo, Community Advocate  
Maria Blancada, UCLA, Asian American Student  
Karla Blanco, Assistant Professor/Assistant Director of Outreach  
Tina Bobadilla-Mastel  
Carl Bolano, UCLA, MPH/MSW Student  
Rick Bonus, University of Washington, Professor of American Ethnic Studies  
Juliana Boteon, UCLA, Student  
Aomar Boum, UCLA, Associate Professor  
Kathryn Braun, University of Hawaii  
Kristina Brittenham, UCLA, MA Candidate  
Susy Bruno, Astrophysics Student/Research Assistant  
Jason Buell, University of Colorado Boulder  
Tracy Buenavista, California State University, Northridge, Professor, Asian American Studies  
Eden Bui, UCLA, Ellen-Rae Cachola, Department of Ethnic Studies, Lecturer  
Tatiana Bustos, Ph.D. Candidate  
Ellen-Rae Cachola, Department of Ethnic Studies, Lecturer  
Leon Calleja, Phillips Academy, Instructor  
Keith Camacho, UCLA, Professor  
Amber Candelaria, UCLA, Student  
Cyan Canfield, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, Publicity Chair  
Melissa Canlas, University of San Francisco,  
Megumi Canup, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB  
Riane Ashley Cardenas, Practitioner  
Melissa Cardenas-Dow, CSU Sacramento, Social Sciences Librarian  
Henry Carnie, Irvine Valley College, Professor of History  
Andre Nicholas Casas, MA  
Kimo Cashman, 'Āinahou: Native Hawaiian Faculty Council, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa-College of Education, Co-Director  
Aimiel Casillan, UCLA, Alum  
Alyssa Casselberry  
Catherine Ceniza Choy, University of California, Berkeley, Professor, Ethnic Studies  
Christine Chai, De Anza Community College, Faculty, Asian and Asian American Studies  
Jamie Chan, UCLA American Indian Studies Center, MSO  
Nadia Chana, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology, Mead Witter School of Music  
Aditi Chandra, University of California, Merced, Assistant Professor  
Benjamin Chang, Education University of Hong Kong  
Claire Chang, Student  
Connie Chang, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Adjunct Faculty, Ph.D, Asian Pacific Studies Program  
Derek Chang, Cornell University, History & Asian American Studies  
Ethan Chang, Postdoc  
Gordon Chang, Stanford University, Professor of History  
Jason Chang, University of Connecticut, Associate Professor of History + Asian American Studies  
Jennifer Chang, Asian American Psychological Association; Asian Neuropsychological Association, PhD  
Mitchell Chang, UCLA, Professor  
Stephanie Chang, UCLA, PhD candidate

Tiffany Chang  
Nissa Chantana, Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Naomi Charlet, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, events coordinator  
Maya Chaudhuri, UCLA Law School  
Edith Chen, California State University, Northridge, Professor of Asian American Studies  
Grace Chen, PhD Student  
Janet Chen, UCLA Center for EthnoCommunications in Asian American Studies, Assistant Director  
Lawrence Chen, Staff  
Stephanie Chen, Associate Professor, Full-Time Faculty  
Susan Chen, California Faculty Association - API Caucus, Member  
Tiffany Chen, Student  
Dorothy Chen-Maynard, California Faculty Association - API Caucus, Faculty  
John Cheng, Binghamton University, Associate Professor  
Michael Cheng, The Wright Institute, M.A.  
Amanda Cheung, Kapatirang Pilipino - UCSB, Student  
Erica Maria Cheung, University of California, Irvine, PhD Student  
King-Kok Cheung, UCLA, Professor of English and Asian American Studies  
Calvin Cheung-Miaw, Stanford University, PhD Student  
Amanda Chhouk, Student  
Dr. Edward Chi  
Sang Chi, Professor  
Mengchun Chiang, Carnegie Mellon University  
Warren Chiang, Stanford University, Associate Dean  
Anita Chikkatur, Carleton College, Associate Professor  
Jason Chin, UCLA, Psychology and Asian American Studies  
Stephanie Chin, Asian American Psychological Association, Student Member  
Cheryl Ching, University of Massachusetts Boston, Assistant Professor  
Doris Ching, University of Hawaii, Emeritus Vice President for Student Affairs  
Kylie Ching, Graduate Student  
Pauline Chinn, Professor  
Alexander Cho, University of California, Irvine, UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow  
Shirlie Mae Choe, Claremont Graduate University, PhD Candidate  
Richard Choi, LA Resident, Asian American, Community member  
Soo Choi, De Anza College, Faculty  
Sapna Chopra, California State University Fullerton, Assistant Professor  
Katherine Chu, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Lecturer  
Patricia P. Chu, George Washington University, Professor  
Richard Chu, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Five College Associate Professor of History  
Victoria Chu, Graduate Student  
Hannah Chua, University of California, Santa Barbara, Student  
Katherine Chua, UCLA, Student, Asian American Studies Minor  
Jennifer Chun, UCLA, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies  
Patrick Chung, University of Maryland  
Simone Chung, Law Student  
Jane Chung-Do, Associate Professor  
Eric Claravall, California State University Sacramento, Assistant Professor  
Genevieve Clutario, Wellesley College, Assistant Professor of American Studies

Makena Coffman, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Professor  
Roland Sintos Coloma, Wayne State University, Professor and Assistant Dean  
Adeleine Conanan, Psychologist  
Richelle Concepcion, Psychologist  
Danielle Concepcion-Rosengren, Graduate Student  
Geena Conde, Undergraduate Student  
Bridgid Conn, Ph.D., ABPP  
Eleanor Craig, Harvard, Program Director and Lecturer in Ethnicity, Migration, Rights  
Dr. Leilani Salvo Crane, Clinical Psychologist, Independent Practice  
Carisse Cronquist, Clinical Psychology PsyD Student  
Ivee Cruz, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Education  
Gabrielle Cua, UCLA, Student  
John Jonah Cubangbang, UCLA, Student  
Marissa Cuellar, Student  
Maria Fatima Cuenco, AmeriCorps, Member  
Erjing Cui, Mental Health Therapist  
Sarah Dahlen, St. Catherine University, Associate Professor  
Preston Dang, Student  
Shaznin Daruwalla, Licensed Psychologist  
Sayantani Dasgupta, Columbia University, MD MPH  
Chevelle Davis, BIPOC Student  
Iyko Day, Mount Holyoke College, Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought  
Mellanie De Guzman, University of San Francisco, School of Nursing and Health Professions PsyD Trainee  
Marisol de La Cadena, University of California, Davis, Professor, Anthropology Department  
Melany De La Cruz-Viesca, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Associate Director  
Manny De Leon, Alumni/Student  
Denise de Sequera, California State University, Northridge, Alumni - Asian American Studies  
Justin De Toro, UCLA, Staff  
Amanda Dea, An Angry Asian Woman for Black Lives  
Jean-Paul deGuzman, Windward School, History Teacher  
May Rose Dela Cruz, Researcher  
Chris Delacruz, El Camino College, Student Services Specialist  
Reuben Deleon, UCLA, PhD Candidate - GSEIS: HEOC, Asian American Studies Concentration  
Marco Dell'oca  
Donna Demanarig, Asian American Psychological Association / University of Bridgeport, Assistant Professor  
Wilson Deng, Seattle University, Area Coordinator  
Jigna Desai, Professor  
Manpreet Dhillon Brar, Graduate Student  
Pawan Dhingra, Professor  
Alexia Diaz, Kappa Psi Epsilon, Vice President  
Elena Diaz-Bilello, University of Colorado Boulder, Associate Director, CADRE  
Chuck Diep, Educator  
Huong Diep, PsyD  
Devaki Dikshit, University of California, Berkeley, Student  
Rae Dimaano  
Quynh Theresa Do, Student  
Steven Doan, Stanford University, Frosh 101 Program Coordinator

Janelle Doi  
Elaine Dolalas, This Filipino American Life, Writer, Community Advocate, Podcast Producer & Host  
Emmeline Domingo, UC San Diego (OASIS), Office Manager  
Jermy Domingo, Public Health Professional  
Harvey Dong, Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies, UC Berkeley, Lecturer  
Kira Donnell, San Francisco State University, Lecturer  
Michael Dorney, Brown University  
Sapana Doshi, University of California, Merced, Associate Professor, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
Imee Dubose, Associate Director, Knight-Hennessy Scholars  
Anaelle Dumatol, Kababayan at UCI  
Sarah Eguchi, UCLA, Alumni & Employee  
Gloria Alexis Eide, Psychologist  
Jennifer Ellingwood, University of Southern California, Assistant Director Residential Education  
April Michelle Enriquez, UCLA, Staff  
Nirmala Erevelles, University of Alabama, Professor  
Anthony Escudro, Harold Washington College, Professor  
Danielle Espiritu, University of Hawai'i,  
Maireen Espiritu, Kababayan at UCI, Publicity Co-Commissioner  
Jan Estrellado, Assistant Professor  
Jeremy Eustice  
Angie Fa, City College of San Francisco, Chair, Asian American Studies  
Christopher Fan, University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor of English, Asian American Studies, and East Asian Studies  
Cindy Fan, UCLA, Professor of Geography  
Jenny Fan, University of California, Irvine, School of Social Sciences  
Ryan Farquhar  
Maryam Fatima, University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Jayde Felix, UCLA  
Jose Fernandez, UCLA, Graduate Student  
Matthew Ferrer, UCLA, Student  
Sina Fifita, Tongan community member  
Alexandra Fine, University of California, Davis, PhD Candidate, Cultural Studies  
Kay Fischer, Chabot College, Instructor Ethnic Studies  
Jaimey Fisher, University of California, Davis, Professor, German and Cinema & Digital Media/ Director, Humanities Institute  
Alfred Flores, Harvey Mudd College, Assistant Professor  
Ashley Flores  
Marissa Floro, Stanford University, Program Manager/ Psychologist  
Kelly Fong, UCLA, Lecturer, Asian American Studies Department  
Seanan Fong  
Nicola Forbes, Fordham University, PhD Student in Applied Developmental Psychology  
Danica Foronda, Student  
Michelle Fortunado-Kewin, LCSW, PPSC, Doctor of Social Work Student  
Valerie Francisco-Menchavez, San Francisco State University, Associate Professor  
Christina Frater, UCLA  
Teadora Fritzler, University of California, Irvine, Undergraduate  
May Fu, University of San Diego, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Ethnic Studies



Michi Fu, Alliant International University, Professor  
Gretchen Fuentes, Stanford University, HR Director  
Candace Fujikane, University of Hawaii, Associate Professor of English  
Eugene Fujimoto, California State University Fullerton, Department Chair, Educational Leadership  
Diane Fujino, University of California, Santa Barbara, Professor and Interim Chair, Asian American Studies  
Dr. Dorothy Fujita-Rony  
Melissa Fujiwara, Professor  
Katherine Fukuda, Student  
Kip Fulbeck, University of California, Santa Barbara, Distinguished Professor of Art  
Eileen Fung, University of San Francisco, Associate Dean  
Abigail Gabriel, Arizona State University, PhD Student  
Francesca Galasso, Student  
Diane Gallo  
Margeaux Gamboa-Wong, Asian American Studies Pathways Project, CSUN Lecturer  
Gilbert Gammad, University of California, Berkeley, MSW Candidate, School of Social Welfare  
Eddy M. Gana Jr., MSW, Mental Health Counselor  
Evyne Lê Espiritu Gandhi, UCLA, Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies  
Adan Garcia, University of California, Davis  
Anneliese Garcia, University of California, Davis, Student & TA, Sociology & Asian American Studies  
Joyhanna Garza, University of California, Santa Barbara, Graduate Student  
Kim Geron, Professor  
Christine Gibo Crapps, Assistant Dean of Students  
Kathryn Gin Lum, Stanford University, Associate Professor  
Paloma Giottonini, UCLA, PhD  
Oliver Goch, UCLA, Student  
Demeturie Toso-Lafaele Gogue, UCLA, PhD Student  
Annabel Gong, University of San Diego, Graduate Student  
Isabel Gonzales, University of California, Irvine, Ph.D Candidate  
Vernadette Gonzalez, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Associate Professor  
Katherine Gorospe, Student of AAPA  
Yoshino Goto, UCLA, Asian American Studies  
William Gow, Lecturer  
Yogita Goyal, UCLA, Professor, African American Studies and English  
Jocelyn Guihama, Director of Administration and Experiential Learning  
Joy Guihama, Community Member  
Aliyah Angel Guina, Kababayan at UCI, Community Advocacy Co-Coordinator  
Rishi Guné, UCLA, Asian American Studies MA Student  
Rene Gutierrez, Coastline College  
Katherine Ha, UCLA, Student  
Sandie Ha  
Tram Ha, UCLA, Alumnus  
Jennifer Haan, New Mexico State University, Assistant Professor  
Noor Habib, Student  
Kenji Hakuta, Stanford University, Professor Emeritus  
Patricia Halagao, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Professor & Chair, Department of Curriculum Studies  
Jeanne Nagayama Hall, University of Oregon, Sr Instructor I  
Akemi Hamai, ML King Middle School, Teacher

Molly Hamill, California State University, Northridge, Grad Student  
Jennifer Hammond, Deerfield Academy, Director of Alumni Relations  
Sahrang Han, UCLA, Samahang Pilipino Cultural Night Coordinator, 2019-2020. Asian American Studies Major, Class of 2020  
Eo Hanabusa, University of California, Irvine, Student  
Nat Hansvuadha, California State University, Long Beach, Professor of Education  
Rhona Harrison, Clinical Psychologist  
Amy Haruyama  
Larry Hashima, California State University, Long Beach, Lecturer - Asian & Asian American Studies  
Teshika Hatch, University of Washington, Teaching Assistant  
Tomo Hattori, California State University, Northridge, Professor, Asian American Studies Department  
Diane Hayashino, California State University, Long Beach, Staff psychologist  
Toni Hays, PhD Student  
Taylor Hazelbaker, UCLA, Graduate Student, Department of Education  
Lei Wena Herme, UCLA, Student  
Vanessa Hermoso, UCLA, Alumni  
Jason Kenji Higa, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Lauren Higa, UCLA, Graduate Student  
Jade Hinds, Student  
Alex Hing, APALA  
Bill Hing, Professor of Law and Migration Studies  
Iris Hinh  
Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani, University of California, Berkeley, Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies Program  
Stacey Hirose, UCLA, Manager, Luskin Department of Public Policy  
Earl Hishinuma, Professor  
Evelyn Ho, University of San Francisco, Professor  
Sheau-Yan Ho, Columbia University Irving Medical Center / New York-Presbyterian Hospital, PhD  
Sheila Ho, UCLA  
RJ Holmes-Leopold, Carleton College, Director of the Career Center  
Andrew Hom, City College of San Francisco, Faculty  
Laureen Hom, Cal Poly Pomona, Assistant Professor  
Christine Hong, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Grace Hong, UCLA, Professor, Gender Studies  
Theo Hong  
Brie Hornig  
Jennifer Hsia, Clinical Assistant Professor  
Betina Hsieh, University of La Verne, Professor & Director of Teacher Education  
Evelyn Hu-Dehart, Brown University, Professor of History, American Studies and Ethnic Studies  
Lisa Hua, Teacher  
Carol Huang, UCSB Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, Board Member  
Ervin Huang, UCLA, Luskin Public Policy  
Joanna Huang, Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Doctoral PsyD Student  
Kristina Huang, Assistant Professor  
Stephanie Huang, artist  
Sue Ann Huang, Assistant Director, Residence Life  
Miguel Hugo, Kababayan at UCI, Community Advocacy Co-Coordinator  
Elirissa Hui, University of Oregon, Academic and Career Advisor

Anneeth Kaur Hundle, University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Dhan Kaur Sahota Presidential Chair of Sikh Studies  
Natalie Hung, Licensed Psychologist  
Nora Hunter  
Yuen Huo, UCLA, Professor  
Alina Huynh, UCLA, Undergraduate  
Gena Huynh, Undergraduate  
James Huynh, UCLA, PhD Student, Department of Community Health Sciences  
Juliet Huynh, Assistant Professor  
Lynn Huynh, University of Oregon, Staff  
Michael Huynh, Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA), Newsletter Columnist/Reporter & Copy Editor  
Kyle Huynh, UCLA, Student, Asian American Studies  
Margaret Hwang, Ally  
Alicia Ibaraki, Western Oregon University, Assistant Professor  
Marie Alexandra R. Ibarra, California State University, East Bay, Asian American Pacific Islander Program Specialist, Student Equity and Success  
Joshua Caleb Iglesia, Student  
Kelsey Iino, El Camino College, Professor  
Elaine Ikeda, California Campus Compact  
Seongah Im, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Associate Professor  
Maria Inciong, UCLA, Alumnae  
Sachi Inoue, Psychoanalyst  
Tiffany Inouye, University of California, Irvine, Student  
Ryan Ishii, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, Intercollegiate Nikkei Council Representative  
Midori Ishizuka, Phillips Academy Andover  
Alejandro Isiordia Navarro  
Daniel Iwama, UCLA, Graduate Student  
Gayle Iwamasa, Clinical Psychologist  
Elyse Izumi, Graduate Student  
Jennifer Ja Birchim, Manager, Community Housing Services  
Anita Jain, Cal Poly Pomona, Associate Professor  
Melissa Jamero, UCLA, Alumni, Asian American Studies  
Maya James, International Education, UC Santa Barbara  
Dr. Sharlene Jeffers, Howard University  
Wenli Jen, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Lecturer  
Russell Jeung, San Francisco State University, Chair and Professor, Asian American Studies  
Dr. Gilbert Jew  
David Ji, Undergraduate Student  
Laura Jimenez-Olvera, Academic Adviser  
Lili Johnson, Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies and Gender & Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Bao Johri, California State University, Sacramento  
Hannah Joo, MA Student, UCLA Asian American Studies  
Naomi Joseph, UCSB Asian Pacific Islander Graduate Student Alliance  
Raymond June, Senior Researcher  
Youngoh Jung, Graduate Student  
Meiyang Kadaba, Clinical Psychologist

Akiko Kaji, PhD  
Kadie Kakumitsu, Student  
Savannah Kan, Student  
Haejin Kang, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Activists (APIDAA) at Emory, Co-VP of Events Committee  
Joanne Kang, Harvard University, Institutional Research Analyst, Proctor  
Miliann Kang, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Associate Professor, Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies  
Patrick Kang, Brown University  
Ishita Kanungo, Assistant Resident Director  
Julie Kaomea, University of Hawai'i, College of Education, Professor  
Eleni Kapoulea, Asian American Psychological Association, University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Nayan Karanth, UCLA Law '22  
Beau Karnsrithong, Student  
Kris Kaupalolo, UCLA, Associate Director  
Tavleen Kaur  
Preet Kaur, Psychotherapist  
Santhi Kavuri-Bauer, San Francisco State University, Professor  
Debra Kawahara, Distinguished Professor  
Lisa Kawamura, California Faculty Association - API Caucus, Co-Chair  
Faith Kazmi, Associate Dean/Director, Stanford Women's Community Center  
Beshara Kehdi, PhD Student, Cultural Studies, UC Davis  
Brian Keum, Assistant Professor  
Ariana Keyser, University of Washington, Masters Student, teacher candidate  
Leili Khalessi, Sacramento State APIDAFSA, Member  
Sabah Khan, Stanford University, Director, Outreach, MBA Admissions  
Sharmin Khan, San Jose State University,  
Danny Khuu, Solano County Library, Library Associate  
Lisa Kiang, Professor  
Nicholas Kikuta, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, INC Rep  
Angella Kim, ACPA APAN Member  
Barbara Kim, California State University, Long Beach, Professor, Asian and Asian American Studies  
Department  
Chang-Hee Kim, University of California, Irvine, Asian American Studies/ Visiting Professor  
Daniel Kim, Associate Professor  
Daniel Kim, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Programmer  
Dr. Helen Kim, Emory University  
Elaine Kim, University of California, Berkeley, Professor Emerita, Asian American Studies  
Eleana Kim, University of California, Irvine  
Gina Kim, Professor  
Grace Kim, Boston University, Wheelock College of Education & Human Development  
Jinah Kim, California State University, Northridge, Associate Professor  
Josephine Kim, Harvard University, Faculty  
Lili Kim, Amherst College & Hampshire College, Associate Professor of History  
Mijin Kim, Psychologist  
Nadia Y. Kim, Professor - Sociology  
Peter Kim, University of California, Berkeley, PhD Student, Ethnic Studies  
Richard Kim, University of California, Davis, Professor  
Sejoo Kim, University of Notre Dame, Ph.D. Candidate

Somy Kim, Northeastern University, Associate Teaching Professor  
Song Kim, California State University, Northridge, Lecturer  
Soo Mee Kim, California State University, Los Angeles  
Soyeong Kim, Brown University, Alpert Medical School  
Suk-Young Kim, UCLA, Professor  
Yoolee Choe Kim, George Mason University, Director of Graduate Student Life  
Sarang Kim, University of California, San Diego, Doctoral Student  
Yuta Kimura, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, International Student  
Roger Kiyomura, Hawaii Pacific University, Director, School of Education  
Kahlil Kochiyama  
Erika Kodama  
Kinuye Koide, Student  
Jasmine Kono-Song, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, New Board Member  
Rishi Krishnamoorthy, New York University  
Ankita Krishnan, PhD  
Ashley Ku, UCLA, Student  
Keiko Kubo, activist  
Balvinder Kumar, California State University, East Bay, Director, Academic and Special Programs  
Kevin Kumashiro, Educational Consultant  
Scott Kurashige, University of Washington, Bothell, Professor  
Rae Kuruhara, Brown University, Graduate Student  
Yvonne Kwan, Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies  
Marc Kwon, Stanford University, Assistant Professor, Art & Art History  
Agnes Kwong, Interconnections Healing Center, PLLC, Director / Owner  
Amy La, Long Beach City College, Licensed Psychologist  
Emily La, University of California, Irvine, Asian American Studies  
Mary Lacanlale, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Assistant Professor, Asian-Pacific Studies Program  
Charissa Lagasca, Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies, Ambassador  
Zwei Lagat, Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies, Intern  
Carolyne Lai, Citizen  
Clement Lai, California State University, Northridge, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies  
Vinay Lal, UCLA, Professor of History and Asian American Studies  
Stephanie Lam, University of California, Irvine, Student  
Katelyn Lance, UCLA, Student  
Anna Lau, UCLA, Professor of Psychology  
Audrie Lau, Student  
Sharon Lau, AAS M.A./MSW Student  
Alyan Layug, University of California, Davis, Administrator Coordinator for BRIDGE  
C.N. Le, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Director of Asian & Asian American Studies Certificate Program  
Vicky Le, University of California, Santa Barbara, Housing - Assistant Complex Coordinator  
Angel Lee, UCLA, Student, School of Law  
Arnold Lee, Asian Pacific Alumni of UCLA, President  
Carina Lee, M.A. Student, Asian American Studies  
Daehwan Lee, California State University, Northridge, Lecturer  
Darlene Lee, UCLA, Faculty Advisory, Teacher Education Program

Dayoung Lee, UCLA, Student  
Dr. Christine Lee, PhD  
Hanyen Lee, Associate Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Helen Lee, California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, Vice-Chair and Commissioner  
James Lee, University of California, Irvine, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies  
John Lee, counselor  
Katherine Lee, University of California, Santa Barbara, Graduate Student  
Kevin Lee, M.D.  
Lucas Lee, UCLA  
Mae Lee, De Anza College, Chair, Asian American and Asian Studies  
Marie Lee, Columbia University/Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Writer in Residence  
Marjorie Lee, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Academic Librarian Archivist  
Matt Lee, Northeastern University, Professor  
Micah Lee, healer in training  
Minsun Lee, Assistant Professor  
Robert Lee, Brown University, Associate Professor of American Studies  
Roselinn Lee, Santa Ana Unified School District, Curriculum Specialist  
Dawn Lee Tu, Faculty Director, Professional Development at De Anza College and Adjunct Faculty of Asian American Studies at San Jose State University  
John Lee-Takaki, Information Technology Solutions, Staff  
Elaine Leigh, PhD Candidate, Higher Education  
Jennifer Lemus, Intern  
Tim Lenoir, University of California, Davis, Professor, Cinema and Digital Media  
Andrew Leong, University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor of English  
Andrew Leong, Associate Professor, Latinx Studies, Asian American Studies, and Legal Studies  
Anna Leong, University of California, Berkeley, Lecturer  
Russell Leong, UCLA, Editor  
Betty Leung, UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
Genevieve Leung, University of San Francisco, Director, Asian Pacific American Studies  
Michael Leung, Student  
Paul Leung, University of North Texas, Emeritus Professor  
Amanda Leutmixay, UCLA, Student  
Sally Lew, Independent Consultant  
Beth Lew-Williams, Princeton University, Associate Professor of History  
Angela Li, Political Science and Asian American Studies  
Qianru Li, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Student in Drama  
Yue Li, Psychology Intern  
Micaella Libunao, Student  
Ramsay Liem, Boston College, Professor Emeritus  
Waverley Lim, Student  
Tasha Lindo, University of Iowa, Student teacher supervisor  
Justin Liu, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Min Liu, University of Hawaii, Faculty  
Shauna Lo, UMass Boston, Institute for Asian American Studies  
Stephanie Lo  
Miya Lohmeier, Brown University

Susan Lok, Adler University  
Mele Look, University of Hawaii Medical School, Department of Native Hawaiian Health, Director of Community Engagement  
Yang Lor, University of California, Merced, Assistant Professor of Teaching  
Andrea Louie, Michigan State University, Professor of Anthropology, Acting Interim Co-Director, Asian Pacific American Studies  
Liane Louie-Badua, California Campus Compact  
Wendy Lu, M.S. Counseling Student  
Sadie Lum  
Milene Ly, Kapatirang Pilipino - UCSB  
Jasmine Ma, Associate Professor of Mathematics Education  
Alex Mabanta, Berkeley Law School, Ph.D. Candidate in Jurisprudence and Social Policy  
Tricia Mabellos, University of Hawaii, Faculty  
Andrea Macabeo, public health professional  
Karen Madamba, UCLA, Student  
Dale Maglalang, Boston College, PhD Candidate  
Jessica Maglalang, Undergraduate Student  
Gina Marie Maglanoc, Student  
Marissa Mah  
Chandni Mahtani, Long Island University, Member of AAPA  
Kristi Mai, UCLA, Undergraduate Student, Asian American Studies  
Sunaina Maira, University of California, Davis, Professor, Asian American Studies  
Ronak Makadia, American Psychological Association, Graduate Student  
Simmy Makhijani, San Francisco State University, Lecturer, College of Ethnic Studies  
Nhoylani Malaluan, University of California, Irvine, Asian American Studies  
Regina Mallare, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Marie Lorraine Mallare-Jimenez, California State University, Sacramento, Professor, Ethnic Studies  
Aubrey Mamaid, UCLA, Student  
Simeon Man, University of California, San Diego, Associate Professor of History  
Michael Mookie Manalili, Boston College, Researcher, Therapist, Educator  
Purnima Mankekar, UCLA, Professor, Anthropology and Asian American Studies  
Blythe Mao, Sacramento State University, PharmD  
Eric Mar, Assistant Professor  
Cynthia Marasigan, Binghamton University, Assistant Professor  
Ian-Paolo Marquez, UCLA, Student  
Isabelle Marquez, Student  
Corrie Martin, Phillips Academy Andover, Instructor  
Carla Martinez, University of California, Davis, Grad Student, Cultural Studies  
Gina Masequesmay, California State University, Northridge, Professor, Asian American Studies Department  
Natalie Masuoka, UCLA, Associate Professor of Political Science and Asian American Studies  
Valerie Matsumoto, UCLA, Professor  
Krystal Matsuyama-Tsai, University of California, Irvine, Grad Student  
Daniel Mayeda, UCLA, Associate Director, Documentary Film Legal Clinic  
Elizabeth Mcfarlane, University of Hawaii, Associate Professor  
Meghan Mcgurk  
Hope Katherine Mead, University of Washington  
A. Paul Mendoza, Student

Rianna Mendoza, University of California, Irvine, Student  
Marlene Mercado, University of California, Davis, Graduate Student  
Sean Metzger, UCLA, Professor  
Tai-An Miao, University of Hawaii, Assistant Professor  
Sara Miller, APILSA at UCLA, Co-chair  
Noriko Milman, University of San Francisco, Sociology  
Susette Min, University of California, Davis, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies  
Jeffery Mio, Professor  
Dana Aika Miranda, Mga Kapatid - UC Davis, Treasurer  
Kristine Mari Miranda, Graduate Student  
Rashmita Mistry, UCLA, Professor, Department of Education  
Drake Miyake, Research Assistant  
Annika Miyamoto, Asian American Psychological Association, Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student  
Rucha Modi, Undergraduate Student  
Terese Guinsatao Monberg, Michigan State University, Associate Professor, Residential College in the Arts & Humanities and Asian Pacific American Studies  
Bailey Monick, University of Hawaii, Dept. of Psychiatry, Research Associate  
David Monkawa, P.A.N.A.  
Ashlee Monton, Student  
Keira Monuki, UCLA, Alumni  
Julie Moore, California State University, Fresno, Special Collections Catalog Librarian  
Risa Mori, University of California, Santa Barbara, Student  
Arnab Mukherjee, California State University, East Bay, Assistant Professor of Health Sciences  
Jason Muljadi, Association of Indonesian Americans, Undergraduate Neuroscience Student, 2020-2021  
President of the Association of Indonesian Americans  
Emily Mun, MA Candidate  
Raj Mundra, Phillips Academy, Dean of Studies  
Aya Murata, Phillips Academy, Associate Director of College Counseling  
Samuel Museus, University of California, San Diego, Professor  
Swap Mushiana, University of San Francisco  
Kit Myers, University of California, Merced, Assistant Professor, History & Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
Vanessa Na, University of California, San Diego, PhD Student, Education Studies  
Asha Nadkarni, Associate Professor of English  
Christina Nagao, El Camino College, English Professor  
Takeru Nagayoshi, 2020 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year  
Hannah Nahm, UCLA  
Greg Nakai, Concerned Citizen  
Kiyoko Nakamura-Koyama, Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, 9th grade ELA teacher  
Ron Nakao, Librarian  
Susan Nakaoka, Sacramento State University, Assistant Professor, Division of Social Work  
Taylor Nakatsuka  
Bhavna Nakum  
Ishita Nandi, Bunker Hill Community College, Professor  
Jeanean Naqvi, Carnegie Mellon University, Graduate Student  
Alice Nash, UMass Amherst, Associate Professor of History  
Sabrina Nasir, PhD Candidate  
Kyle Navarro, Public Health Nurse



Neha Navsaria, Assistant Professor  
Jennifer Nelson, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Art History  
Denise Nelson-Hurwitz, Assistant Professor  
Mariel Neri, UCLA, Filipina American Student  
Joshua Nettles, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Lecturer  
Alexandra Nevins, UCLA, Phy Sci Student  
Cindy Ng, Stanford University, Director, Asian American Activities Center  
Mae Ngai, Columbia University, Lung Professor of Asian American Studies, Professor of History, and co-director, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race  
Charlene Ngo, Student  
Ai-Khanh Nguyen, University of Washington, Doctoral Student, College of Education  
Anna Nguyen, University of San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies  
Anne Nguyen, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Cindy Nguyen, Brown University, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Clara Nguyen, UCLA, Student  
David Hòa Nguyen, Assistant Professor  
Francis Nguyen, Peer Counselor  
Hieu Nguyen  
Kevin Ngyuen, Undergraduate Student, c/o 2020  
Ly Nguyen, University of California, San Diego, Ethnic Studies Department  
Lynn Nguyen, Program Assistant  
Mylinh Nguyen, Teacher  
Ngan Nguyen, Society for the Psychology of Women, Society for the Psychology of Women  
Patricia Nguyen, Senior Director, Diversity Programs & Initiatives, UCLA Alumni  
Stephanie Nguyen, Indiana University, Graduate Student  
Thuan Nguyen, University of Southern California, Doctoral Student, Sociology  
Tom Nguyen, De Anza College, Division Counselor, Biological Health & Environmental Sciences  
Tom Nguyen, UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
T. Nguyen-Vo, UCLA, Associate Professor  
erin Ninh, University of California, Santa Barbara, Associate Professor, Asian American Studies Department  
Koko Nishi, Asian American Psychological Association, Clinical Psychologist  
Jeanne Nishimoto, Associate Director, UCLA Veterans Justice Clinic  
Ronaldo Noche, University of California, Santa Barbara, MultiCultural Center  
Rosally Nunez  
Maryjo Nuñez  
Kemiya Nutter, University of San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of San Diego  
Josephine Obedencio  
Paul Obedencio  
Anthony Ocampo, Cal Poly Pomona, Associate Professor  
Atheneus Ocampo, Counselor  
Dominique Oei, University of California, Irvine, Asian American Studies  
Franklin Odo, Amherst College, John J McCloy Visiting Professor  
Dennis M. Ogawa, Professor  
Ellen Oh, Stanford University, Director of Programs, Office of the Vice President for the Arts  
Sung Ohm, California State University, Northridge, Adjunct Lecturer  
Jonathan Okamura, University of Hawai'i, Professor  
Ernest Olivar, Student

Ava Olson, University of California, Berkeley, Undergraduate Student  
Fay Olympia  
Maria Ong, Ph.D.  
Thomas Anil Oommen, Pacific University, Interim Director  
Nicole Oshima, Nikkei Student Union - UCLA, President  
Erica Osiecki, Northeastern University, Academic Advisor  
Tasha Otenti, Milton Academy, International Student Coordinator and Latin teacher  
Ryan Oto, Teacher  
Mark Padoongpatt, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Associate Professor of Asian American Studies  
Jose William Padua  
Jen Pagala Barnett, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Associate Director, Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity  
Oh Nyuh Pak, Bulosan Center of Filipino Studies  
David Palumbo-Liu, Stanford University, Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor  
Arnold Pan, UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
Rani Pan, K2 Inclusion Teacher BPS  
Gregory Pancho, UCLA, SAO, Asian American Studies Department  
Chan Jeong Park, University of Missouri  
Daniel K. Park, University of California, Irvine, Associate Director, Cross-Cultural Center  
Ha Jin Park, UCLA, School of Law Student  
Irene Park, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Digital Media Lab Coordinator  
Jarel Park, Anakbayan Santa Barbara  
John Park, University of California, Santa Barbara, Professor of Asian American Studies Department  
Jung-Sun Park, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Professor, Asian-Pacific Studies  
Kyeyoung Park, UCLA, Anthropology and Asian American Studies  
Lisa Park, University of California, Santa Barbara, Professor and Chair, Asian American Studies Department  
Terry Park, University of Maryland, College Park, Lecturer, Asian American Studies Program  
Amy Patel, Phillips Academy, medical director  
Ayush Patel, Student  
Bina Patel, Psychiatrist  
Dhaval Patel, Community Director  
Leigh Patel, Professor  
Ronak Patel, UCLA, School of Law Student  
Sunita Patel, UCLA School of Law, Assistant Professor of Law  
Bindi Patel, Higher Education Administrator  
Varisa Patraporn, Associate Professor  
Arjendu Pattanayak, Carleton College, Professor of Physics  
Krishna Pattisapu, University of Colorado Boulder, Director of Diversity Recruitment and Retention, School of Education  
Anna Pegler-Gordon, Michigan State University  
Michael Peng, AAS Student  
Christine Peralta, Indiana University  
Justin Perea, Kababayan at UCI  
Jewel Pereyra, Ph.D. Candidate  
Ashley Pham, UCLA, SOLE Advisor  
Emily Pham, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Mylinh Pham, De Anza College, History Instructor

Jenny Phan, Student of AAS Department  
Kevin Phan  
Naime Phanichewa, UCLA, Student  
Thomas Philip, University of California, Berkeley, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education  
Malaphone Phommasa, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Katie Phung, Senior Assistant Director of Admission & Coordinator of Multicultural Recruitment  
Ashley Phuong, UCLA, Student  
Alexia Theresa Pimentel, Student Affairs Professional  
Saeri Plagmann, Student  
Maria Poblete, UCLA, Student  
Ninez Ponce, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Director  
Hing Potter, Northeastern University, Assistant Director for Student Services  
Amrisha Prakash, Clinical Psychology PhD Candidate  
Brendan Pratt, UCLA, J.D. Candidate 2021 – School of Law  
Gianna Pray, University of San Diego, Department of Ethnic Studies  
Maria Kathleen Puente, Bunker Hill Community College, Professor of Psychology and Project Director, AANAPISI Grant  
Jyoti Puri, Simmons University, Professor of Sociology  
Kathlyn Quan, City College of San Francisco, Asian American Studies Lecturer  
Rachel Quinajon  
Isheeta Rahman, Student Leadership Programs Advisor  
Kanthi Raja, Doctoral Candidate  
Ankita Rakhe, Stanford University, Director of Student Activities  
Cassandra Rall, Student  
Barbra Ramos, UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
Jennifer Ramos, Research Assistant  
Dharini Rasiah, UCLA  
Karen Ravago-Ballaret, Director, Alumni Engagement  
Brandon J Reilly, Santa Monica College, Associate Professor in History  
Melissa Relis, California State University, Northridge, Undergraduate  
Nicole Reyes, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Assistant Professor  
Victoria Reyes, University of California, Riverside, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
Eun Rhee, California State University, East Bay, Research Associate  
Sahaj Rijal  
Takeo Rivera, Boston University, Assistant Professor  
Teila Robertson, Long Beach City College, APID, NPIEN  
Adriana Rodriguez, California State University, Northridge, Student  
Robyn Rodriguez, Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, Founding Faculty Director  
Arthur Roh, PhD  
Maythee Rojas, California State University, Long Beach  
Lindsay Romasanta, Director, Student Success Programs  
Patrick Andrei Romero, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Sydney Rood, UCLA, Student  
Curtiss Takada Rooks, Loyola Marymount University, Assistant Professor, Program Coordinator  
Kimberly Rosas, California State University, Northridge, AAS Alumni  
Jennifer Roxas, Stanford University, Assistant Director of Career Catalysts  
Elizabeth Hanna Rubio, University of California, Irvine, PhD Candidate- Department of Anthropology

Joe Sabado, University of California, Santa Barbara, API Task Force  
Muey Saeteurn, University of California, Merced  
Sarah Sagawa, Pacific University, Graduate Student  
Lorine Erika Saito, Pepperdine University, Adjunct Faculty/ELD Department Chair  
Stacey Salinas, University of California, Davis, Student  
Michelle Salve, University of California, Santa Barbara, Cultural Mentorship Program, API mentor  
Catherine Salvin, San Francisco Unified School District, Teacher  
Christina Salvin, Gavilan Community College  
Michelle Samura, Chapman University - Attallah College of Educational Studies, Associate Professor & Associate Dean  
Gabe Sanchez, Student  
Gene Sandan, Doctoral Candidate  
Kallie Sandell, University of Washington, Student  
Cindy Sangalang, UCLA, Departments of Social Welfare and Asian American Studies  
Kyle Santos, University of Oregon Career Center, Career Readiness Coach  
Courtney Sato, Harvard University, Postdoctoral Fellow, Charles Warren Center  
Anne Saw, DePaul University, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology  
Amber Jane Sayoc, Kapatirang Pilipino - UCSB, Co-Chair  
Mattia Sayson, Bulosan Center for Filipinx Studies, Undergraduate Student of University of California, Davis  
Meera Sehgal, Carleton College, Associate Professor, Women's & Gender Studies & Sociology  
Tessa Sengupta-Irving, University of California, Berkeley, Assistant Professor  
Jin Young Seo, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, PhD Student  
Alethea Serna, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Associate Professor, COE  
Nayan Shah, University of Southern California, Professor  
Niral Shah, University of Washington, Assistant Professor  
Tanvi Shah, Boston University,  
Vidya Shah, York University, Assistant Professor  
Swati Sharma, Student  
Celeste Tường Vy Sharpe, Carleton College, Interim Director of Academic Technology  
Christina Shea, LMFT  
Satoko Shibao, Psy.D.  
Naoko Shibusawa, Brown University  
Ashanti Shih, University of Southern California, Postdoctoral Scholar  
Elena Shih, Assistant Professor of American Studies  
Margaret Shih, UCLA, Professor  
Nicole Shimizu, University of California, Santa Barbara, Student  
Grace Shin, Stanford University, Administrator  
Roy Shin, Student  
Jean Shon, University of California, Irvine  
Ester Sihite, Stanford University, Associate Director, Office for Inclusion, Belonging and Intergroup Communication  
Zekee Silos, University of California, Santa Barbara, Asian Pacific Islanders Cultural Mentorship Program, Resident Director/API CMP Advisor  
Calvin M. Sims, AAPA, Adjunct Professor  
Anneliese Singh, University of Georgia, Professor  
Virajita Singh, University of Minnesota, Associate Vice Provost, Office for Equity & Diversity  
James Slater-Wu, Stanford University, Associate Director of Operations, Residential Education

Stacey Smith-Clark, Early Education Action League  
Connie So, SFUSD, Teacher  
Caitlin Sochayseng, Student  
Isabelle Soifer, Graduate Student  
Amy Sojot, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, PhD Candidate, Educational Foundations  
Sam Solemnidad  
Caitlin Solone, UCLA, Doctoral Student  
David K Song, East Los Angeles College, Associate Professor  
Irene Soriano, UCLA Asian American Studies Center  
Mary Grace Sosing, Supporter/Student/Social Worker  
Michael Spencer, Professor  
Olivia Stark, UCLA, Student, Asian American Studies  
Justin Suarez, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Carola Suarez-Orozco, UCLA, Professor  
Banu Subramaniam, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Professor  
May Sudhinaraset, UCLA, Assistant Professor  
Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, Associate Professor  
Chris Suh, Emory University, Assistant Professor of History  
Evelyn Sullivan, A concerned Japanese American citizen  
David Sun, Associate Director, Diversity Programs, UCLA Alumni  
Emily Sun  
Krisnawati Suryanata, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Professor  
Erin Suzuki, University of California, San Diego, Assistant Professor, Literature  
Rebecca Suzuki, BA  
Kristine Sydney, Milton Academy, English teacher, house head  
Julie Sze, University of California, Davis, Professor  
Johan Tabora, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Shelley Tadaki, Faculty, Community College  
Michelle Tagorda, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Renee Tajima-Peña, UCLA Asian American Studies, Professor  
Michael Takahara, University of California, Santa Barbara, Health Educator  
Lois Takahashi, University of Southern California, Price School of Public Policy in Sacramento  
Stephanie Takaragawa, Chapman University, Associate Dean/ Associate Professor  
Caitlin Takeda, Student  
Sydney Takeda, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Mary Ann Takemoto, California State University, Long Beach, Associate VP  
Stephanie Tamayosa, UCLA, Student  
Jan Tamondong, Samahang Pilipino - UCLA, SPACE Peer Advisor  
Eileen Tamura, Professor emerita  
S. Mako Tanaka, UCLA, Doctoral Student, Psychology Department  
Annabelle Tang  
Katie Tang, UCLA  
Sora Tanjasiri, University of California, Irvine  
Tracy Tanus, University of California, Berkeley  
Hannah Tavares, Professor  
Mona Tekchandani, Stanford University, Associate Director of Development  
Ty Tengan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Associate Professor, Departments of Ethnic Studies and

Anthropology

Robert Teranishi, UCLA

Nita Tewari, Consultant

Megan Milagros Thompson, Pilipinos for Community Health, volunteer

Mika Thornburg, University of California, Santa Barbara, PhD Student, History

Meg Thornton, UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Joanne Tien, Senior Program Director

Elizabeth Tin-Maung

Anna Tingin, UCLA, Student

Dean Toji, California State University, Long Beach, Asian American Studies

Michael Tom, Resident Physician

James Toma, UCLA, Lecturer, School of Law

Michael Tong

Yuki Torrey

Jorryn Tovera, University of California, Santa Barbara, Student

Gregory Toy, UCLA, Department of English

Kyoko Toyama, LaGuardia Community College, City University of New York, Professor

Jane Tram, Pacific University, Associate Professor

Nicole Trammel, Graduate Student

Catherine Tran, Undergraduate Student

Christine Tran, Student

Ginnie Tran, Student

Michelle Tran

Nellie Tran, San Diego State University

Tiffany Tran, UCLA, MA 2019, Asian American Studies

Tony Tran, Boston College, Assistant Professor of Communication

Van Anh Tran, Columbia, PhD Student, Teachers College

Adela Tran, Student

Terrie Tran Gurm, Assistant Director, Residential & Community Living

Talitha Trazo, UCLA, Asian American Studies Department, Graduate Student

Madeleine Tremblay, University of California, Santa Barbara

Tiffany Trinh

Kimberly Truong, Lecturer and Administrator

Jeanne Tsai, Stanford University, Professor, Psychology and Asian American Studies

Mark Tseng-Putterman, Brown University, Department of American Studies

Kara Tsi, UCLA, Student

Anna Tsing, University of California, Santa Cruz, Anthropology

Yuying Tsong, California State University, Fullerton, Associate Professor

Cecilia Tsu, University of California, Davis, Associate Professor, Department of History

Scott Tsuchitani, University of California, Davis, Asian American Studies, Associate Instructor (Lecturer)

Porntip Israsena Twishime, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Phd Student

Pauline Tze, UCLA

Olivia Uchim, Student

Maya Uemoto, Ally

Jasmine Ueng-Mchale, PhD Clinical Psychologist

Karen Umemoto, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, Helen and Morgan Chu Director's Chair

Daniel Ung, University of California, Irvine

Camille Ungco, University of Washington, PhD Student  
Asha Unni, Predoctoral psychology intern  
Suraj Uttamchandani, Indiana University  
Claire Valderama-Wallace, California State University East Bay, Assistant Professor, Department of Nursing  
Laura Valdiviezo, University of Massachusetts, Faculty and Director of the Center for Latin America, Caribbean and Latino Studies  
Dr. Caroline Kieu-Linh Valverde, University of California, Davis  
Mary Lee Vance, APIDAFSA  
Cassidy Vang, Student  
Ma Vang, University of California, Merced, Assistant Professor  
Yee Vang, UCLA, Resident Director  
Manka Varghese, University of Washington, Professor  
Jetney Vegas, Student  
Rouel Velasco, University Faculty-Specialist and Student Affairs Professional  
Ariana Vergonio, Student  
Roxanne Villaluz, Baker/Cook  
Nicolo Villasis, UCLA, Student  
Kendra Vilorio, UCLA, Student  
Charlotte Vo, Undergraduate Student  
Jason Vu, UCLA, Undergraduate Student  
Natasha Vuong, UCLA, Vietnamese American Student  
Naoko Wake, Michigan State University, Associate Professor  
Patricia Wakimoto, University of California Berkeley, Researcher  
Gregory Waldman, Concerned Citizen  
Alex Wang, UCLA, Professor, School of Law  
Alton Wang, UCLA, School of Law  
Amy Wang, University of California, San Diego, PhD Student  
Amy Wang, IMPACT AAPI, Counselor/Coordinator  
Anna Wang, Stanford University, Executive Director, Levin Center at Stanford Law School  
Howard Wang, OCA-GLA (member); CACALA (member)  
Jane Wang, Emory University '22  
Jennifer Wang, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, Social Chair  
Karin Wang, UCLA, Executive Director, Public Interest Program, School of Law  
Letian Wang  
May-Choo Wang, UCLA, Faculty  
Waeli Wang, University of Kansas, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Joyce Pualani Warren, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Assistant Professor  
Paul Watanabe, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Professor  
Amanda Waters, Psychologist  
Lily Anne Welty Tamai, Lecturer  
Imari Whalen, Nikkei Student Union - UCSB, Co-President  
Hannah Hyun White, PhD Student  
Teresa Williams León, California State University, Northridge, Professor, Asian American Studies and Central American Studies  
Lisa Wilson, Professor  
Adrienne Winans, Utah Valley University, Assistant Professor  
Tessa Winkelmann, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Assistant Professor, History Department

Bert Winther-Tamaki, University of California, Irvine  
Brian Wong, Oregon Health & Science University, Professor of Medicine Emeritus  
Carolyn Wong, University of Massachusetts, Boston, Institute for Asian American Studies  
Edward Wong, East Wind Ezine, Editor/Publisher  
Joann Wong, Stanford University, Program & Organizational Effectiveness Director, Haas Center for Public Service  
Jordon Wong, Washington State Teacher Candidate  
Karna Wong, University of California, Irvine, Assistant Professor of Teaching  
Kathy Wong, Counseling Psychology Doctoral Student  
Kristen Wong, George Washington University, Doctoral Candidate  
Madeline Wong, Phillips Academy Andover, Instructor in Chemistry  
Mary Ann Wong, California State University, Sacramento, Student Affairs Project and Program Evaluation Manager  
Sunn Wong, Cornell University, Director, Asian American Studies Program  
MJ Wong Engel, Phillips Academy Andover, Teaching Fellow in English  
Christine Min Wotipka, Stanford University, Associate Professor of Education and Sociology  
Hsin-Ching Wu, University of Massachusetts, Boston, PhD candidate  
Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, University of California, Irvine, Director, Humanities Center & Professor, Asian American Studies  
Ediith Wu-Nguyen, Stanford University  
Vivian Wuwong, Milton Academy Asian Society, Teacher  
Alan Xie  
Keye Xu, UCLA, Student  
Ida Yazadeh, Northwestern University, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Christine Yamasaki, UCLA, Graduate Student  
Lois Yamauchi, University of Hawai'i, Professor  
Anna Yan, Student  
Justine Yan, University of California, Irvine, Graduate Student in Creative Writing & Asian American Studies  
Randy Yan, Associated Students of UC Irvine (ASUCI), Student Body President  
Caroline Yang, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Assistant Professor, English  
Catherine Yang, Student  
Jeea Yang, Palo Alto University, PhD Student  
Pang Yang, Community activist  
Beverly Yanuaria, UCLA, Interim Manager, Diversity & Inclusion Programs  
Vonceil Yara, MFT  
Rosenna Yau, Stanford University  
Dr. Mary Yee  
Fontanna Yee, UCLA  
Alina Yen, UCLA, Undergraduate Student, c/o 2020  
Sarah Yi  
Varaxy Yi, California State University, Fresno, Assistant Professor  
Yan Yii  
Jeffrey Yo, Graduate Student  
Stan Yogi, Author  
David Yoo, UCLA  
Kunseo Yook, Student  
Irene Yoon, University of Utah, Associate Professor



Priscilla Yoon, Assistant Director  
Ken Yoshida, University of California, Merced, Assistant Professor  
Mari Yoshihara, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Professor and Chair, Department of American Studies  
Jennifer Young, Psychologist  
Shuying Yu, Graduate Student  
Rick Yuen, Stanford University, Judicial Officer Emeriti  
Sharon Yuen, UCLA, BA Candidate for Asian American Studies, Outgoing Director of APC  
Lisa Yun, SUNY Binghamton, English and Asian American Studies  
Vazira Zamindar, Brown University, Associate Professor of History  
Nolan Zane, University of California, Davis, Professor Emeritus  
Jessy Zapanta, East Bay Meditation Center  
Jimmy Zavala, Librarian  
Jerry Zee, University of California, Santa Cruz, Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies  
Thomas Zeller, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Project associate  
Jennifer Zelnick, University of California, Irvine, PhD candidate, Anthropology  
Jessica Zeng, Undergraduate Student  
Alice Zheng, Student  
Tracy Zhou, University of California, Santa Barbara  
Zihan Zhou, UCLA, Student  
Bella Zhu, UCLA  
Starry Zhu  
Tonie Zhu, University of California, Irvine, Paul Merage School of Business - Career Center, Associate Director, Employer Relations  
Gabrielle Zhuang, Asian American Psychological Association  
Ben Zulueta, University of California, Santa Barbara, Department of Asian American Studies, Lecturer