

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



Read all about it!!!

Check your email! Newsletter #134 is out!

If you didn't get it, don't miss out! Everyone is reading it!

Join the APIDA Center contact list: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>



Hours:

Mon-Thurs 10:00-8:00pm

Fridays 10:00-4:30pm

Location: 2nd floor of Student Union

Rooms #210A-K (directly above Starbucks)

connect with us!

Center Website: <https://sacd.sdsu.edu/apida>

Center Email: apida@sdsu.edu

Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu

Associate Director: Matthew H Garcia at mhgarcia@sdsu.edu

Assistant Coordinator: Gi Vargas at ggonzales3@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter

SDSU APIDA

Resource Center

SA+CD

SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center Executive Director's Message

April 25, 2025

All students, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin, who are interested in APIDA Center programming and services are welcome.



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Meet our new staff member!

I am thrilled to introduce you to our newest staff member, **Gabby Gloria**, Assistant Coordinator. Gabby will be supporting the Office of AANAPISI Affairs and the APIDA Center. They earned both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Public Policy from the University of California, Riverside (UCR), as part of the inaugural Accelerated BA/MPP cohort. While at UCR, Gabby was actively involved in the Katipunan Pilipino Organization, serving as Public Relations Chair and supporting cultural events like Pilipino American Culture Night. Their academic and professional interests center on identity development, digital communications, and community storytelling within APIDA spaces. They have conducted research on identity work with minority artists and APIDA-serving organizations and previously supported sustainability-focused digital outreach with the County of Riverside. These experiences affirmed their belief in the power of intentional online communication to foster access and belonging. Raised in Chula Vista, Gabby is inspired by the communities that have shaped them and sees their work as a way to give back. In their free time, they enjoy building mechanical keyboards, sewing, gaming, and attending concerts and conventions.



APIDA Center at WRC luncheon!

This past March, the Women's Resource Center, under the leadership of **Elzbeth Islas**, celebrated their 10th anniversary. It was a beautiful event. Many thank to the WRC for creating an inspirational and affirming space. Women rule! (Thanks to **Candy Carson** for the photos!)

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about Operation Frequent Wind & *USS Midway*!

On April 29th, 1975, the U.S. military launched "Operation Frequent Wind" to evacuate the remaining Americans and Vietnamese allies from Saigon, the former capital of South Vietnam. This was the last U.S. military operation of the Vietnam War (1955-1975). Over two days, the U.S. military evacuated over 7,000 people by helicopter from designated locations across the city including the U.S. Embassy and the Defense Attache Office compound. Members of the South Vietnamese Air Force participated in the operation, hoping to find U.S. Navy vessels on which to land.

San Diego's *USS Midway*, the longest-serving aircraft carrier in the 20th century, played a major role during Operation Frequent Wind. By April 20, 1975, the *USS Midway* arrived off the coastal city of Vung Tau near Saigon. The *Midway* carried aircraft carriers and other military equipment that were used during the evacuation. In all, there were almost 50 helicopters carrying evacuees that landed on the *Midway*. By the morning of April 30, 2025, the *Midway's* helicopters have evacuated 3,073 refugees out of Saigon.

Operation Frequent Wind is remembered as the largest helicopter evacuation in U.S. history. Today, many continue to commemorate and reflect on the *USS Midway's* role in rescuing thousands of Vietnamese refugees, many of whom resettled and established a thriving Vietnamese American community in San Diego. The *USS Midway* Museum and the Vietnamese Heritage Museum are hosting the [50th Anniversary of Operation Frequent Wind](#) on Sunday, April 27th from 10-3pm.

Join the SDSU APIDA Center for our [Black April programs](#) to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon and 50 years of Southeast Asian American history in the United States.

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center plays Kōnane!

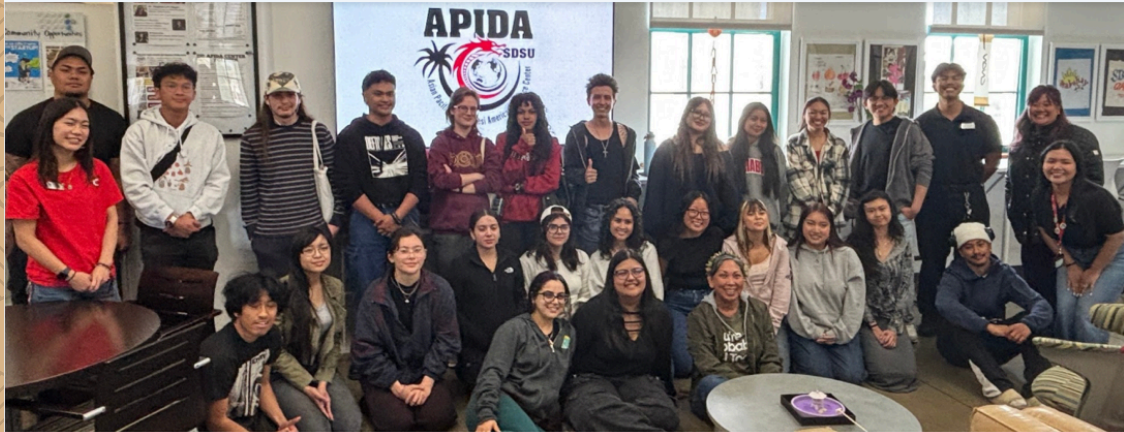
On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, the APIDA Center collaborated with the Pacific Islander Student Association (PISA) to learn about Kōnane, a traditional Hawaiian board game. PISA student leaders **Joel Pacia** and **Malia Banawa** presented the historical and cultural significance of Kōnane. Then, attendees enjoyed playing the game!



APIDA Center hosts author, Margaret Juhae Lee!

On Thursday, April 24th, the APIDA Center hosted author, [Margaret Juhae Lee](#). Lee is the author of *Starry Field: A Memoir of Lost History*. She talked about the uncovering of family secrets and how to talk to elders about tough issues. Many thanks to the Charles Wei-hsun Fu Center for Asian and Pacific Studies for co-sponsoring and to Asian American Studies department for supporting the event.

Note: It is important to learn about our family histories and migration stories. Take time to collect these stories!



APIDA Center hosts Mesa College!

On Friday, April 25th, the APIDA Center was thrilled to host the [Mesa College Kapwa Learning Community](#). Kapwa students visited the APIDA Center and participated in a tour, transfer student panel, and Lunar New Year snake fingerweaving workshop. We love hosting our Mesa College friends and hope to see them at SDSU next year as fellow SDSU students!



APIDA Center goes to the movies!

On Friday, April 25th, the APIDA Center supported the San Diego Asian Film Festival's opening movie for their Spring Showcase. We watched "Out of Plain Sight" and was treated to a filmmaker panel.

APIDA Flex Alerts!

Uurtsaikh Boldkhuyag wrote an article for *The Daily Aztec* entitled, "[Student in International Student Exchange Program from Mongolia shares their experience](#)." The article was about a student exchange project between SDSU's School of Journalism & Media Studies and the Department of Journalism & Communication at the National University of Mongolia.

Shaye Phung is a fourth-year undergraduate student majoring in Liberal Studies and minoring in Leadership and Cultural Proficiency. She is one of ten SDSU students receiving the [2025 Quest for the Best award](#), which recognizes high-achieving students for outstanding performance in academics and community service.

Diego Del Mundo is a second-year undergraduate student majoring in Television, Film, and Media Studies and an APIDA Center Student Assistant. On Saturday, April 19th, he won the talent competition at the Asian Pacific Student Alliance (APSA) Fashion Talent Show. He gave a solo performance of "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?" by Elton John. His song embodied the event's theme: "Time of Our Lives."

This year's Association of Asian American Studies (AAS) took place in Boston, MA. Dr. **Loh-Hagan** was invited to chair a panel about "Elevating Asian American Studies in K-12 and Beyond" and to lead the K-12 section meeting. (Her presentation was about place-based learning.) Dr.

Minjeong Kim presented her paper on "Social and Geographic Stratifications among Korean immigrant communities in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region." Dr. **Stephen Suh** presented his paper on "Itaewon and the 'gyopo renaissance': Korean American culinary entrepreneurs' placemaking efforts in the heart of Seoul." Dr. **Alvin Henry** chaired a panel entitled, "LGBTQ+SEA: Gender, Sexuality, and Community Among First and Second Generation Southeast Asians," gave a talk on "Consistency In Consistency In and Pervasiveness of Stereotypes of Asian American Men and Women," and gave a talk on "Exploring Asian American Neurodiversity: The Impacts of the Model Minority Myth in ASD Diagnosis."



We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!

Have a flex to share?

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

APIDA Recommendation: Gabby Gloria



Gabby Gloria, Assistant Coordinator, recommends *Until Then*, a 2024 2D visual novel by Polychroma Games that follows the life of Mark Borja, a Filipino high schooler caught in a supernatural mystery. This game includes cultural references that bring the Philippines to life, from the casual use of Tagalog slang to the familiar sound of *taho* vendors. Gabby shared, "Get ready to ugly cry. As a Filipinx American, *Until Then* helped me feel connected to my culture in a video game space where our stories are rarely in the spotlight. There aren't enough narratives that dive into the everyday struggles of young APIDA people. One message that stayed with me was the importance of communication, especially in Filipino communities, across all kinds of relationships. At the end of the day, we're all living in our own little worlds. Learning to ask for help is a powerful step and one we can all take."

Share all things APIDA (i.e., books, movies, food, restaurants, etc.).

Send a picture of you with the product and your glowing review.

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

Special Announcement: May APIDA Month



This upcoming May launches our 5th annual [APIDA Heritage and History Month](#). Celebrate this month with us!

[Faculty Chat: Citizen Journalism with Professor Melissa Mecija*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 12-1pm

In collaboration with Asian American Journalists Association at SDSU, join us to learn about citizen journalism from Professor Melissa Mecija, a broadcast journalist based in San Diego. Her talk will be about how to get APIDA stories covered through citizen journalism in addition to the pros and cons of citizen journalism.

[Cultural Crafting Night: Lei Day*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 6-8pm

May Day is Lei Day! Lei Day is celebrated annually on May 1st in Hawai'i. It is a designated day to celebrate and recognize the custom of giving and receiving lei. The lei is a symbol of aloha. Learn more about the historical and cultural significance of the lei and Lei Day. Then, make a lei with us. (This is a perfect opportunity to make a graduation lei!)

[Importance of Rice in API Cultures*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 from 3-4pm

Rice plays a significant role in Asian and Pacific Islander cultures. It signifies life, prosperity, and cultural heritage. A symbol of fertility, health, and wealth, rice plays a vital role in numerous rituals and celebrations. Learn more about the historical and cultural significance of rice and eat some rice with us!

[Club Karaoke*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 from 5-8pm

Join us for another super fun Club Karaoke night! Pick your favorite songs and sing your heart out!

[History of Paper-Making: One of China's Great Inventions*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 from 6-8pm

China is known for "The Four Great Inventions" - which refers to the compass, gunpowder, paper-making and printing. Imagine a world without these innovations. Learn more about the history of paper-making, including the STEM behind the process. Then, make some paper with us. Bring scrap paper and fibers! Warning: Prepared to get messy!

[D.I.Y. Masala Chai*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 from 4-5pm

Masala chai is a popular spiced black tea beverage from South Asia, typically made with black tea, milk, sugar, and a blend of aromatic spices. It's known for its warm, comforting flavor and is often referred to as "spiced tea." Learn about its historical and cultural significance and then make your own blend of masala chai!

[Research Talk: Samoan Language with Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 3-4pm

Join us to learn about Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a's research on Samoan language and his work as a cultural scholar and activist.

[Asian Courting Rituals*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 from 6-8pm

Learn the art of culturally significant flirting! Learn about and practice various Asian courting rituals. Examples include *pov pop* (a Hmong ball-tossing game), tips from the *Kama Sutra* (an ancient Indian Hindu Sanskrit text), and more! We will also provide opportunities to meet new and old friends!

[2025 APIDA Excellence Celebration](#)

Location: Student Union Courtyard

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 5-9pm

We will be recognizing our December 2024, May 2025, and August 2025 graduates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year! Enjoy lots of food, cake, caricatures, balloon art, photobooth, dancing, and more! [RSVP](#) today.

[APIDA Field Trip: "Aloha Vaqueros" Exhibit at the San Diego History Center*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, May 9, 2025 from 10am-6pm

Learn about "Hawaiian cowboys" and their connection to San Diego. Also, visit San Diego sites that are connected to Hawaiian history and culture. [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Friday, May 2, 2025.

[Hmong-Lao Veterans Day*](#)

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 3-4pm

During the Vietnam War (1955-1975), thousands of Hmong-Lao people were recruited to fight alongside Americans, facing harsh retribution. Many were forced to flee. May 14, 1975 marks the day that the last of the Hmong-Lao soldiers and their families fled Laos for the Nam Phong refugee camp in Thailand. Learn more about why May 14th is recognized as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

UndocuAPIDA Support Group

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 from 3-4pm

We will discuss experiences, share resources, be in community, and enjoy some snacks. This event is open to all students.

Feel Your Feelings: Intergenerational Trauma & the Refugee Experience*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 from 5-6pm

Discuss the impacts of the refugee experience on Southeast Asian American immigrant communities. Explore how to recognize and navigate this trauma and work toward healing across generations.

Cultural Crafting Night: Hoi An Decorated Paper Lanterns*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 from 6-8pm

Hoi An is a province in Central Vietnam. It is famous for its colorful lanterns, a traditional art form that goes back over 400 years. Learn more about this iconic Vietnamese symbol and decorate paper lanterns with us!

Black April Discussion*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 3-4pm

Join us to learn about Black April, or the Fall of Saigon which happened on April 30, 1975. Learn about the history, its aftermath, and its legacy.

Cultural Education Program: Vietnamese Resettlement in the U.S.*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 4-5pm

Over 100,000 Vietnamese refugees resettled in the United States after the Fall of Saigon. Learn about the history of Vietnamese resettlement post-Vietnam War. There will be a special focus on SoCal/San Diego and New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cultural Education Program: Bánh Mì*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 5-6pm

Learn about the history of the beloved Bánh mì sandwich, including the influence of French colonialism. Then, enjoy some Bánh mì with us!

Screening of "Seadrift" and Chat with Dr. Thao Ha*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 6-8pm

Join us for a screening of the documentary "Seadrift," which is about the tensions between Texas fishermen and Vietnamese refugee fishing communities in Seadrift, Texas which took place in the late 1970s. Chat with the film's co-producer and MiraCosta professor, Dr. Thao Ha.

Meet Your Counselor: Yu-An Chien, LCSW*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025 from 2-3pm

Meet APIDA-identifying counselors from SDSU's Counseling & Psychological Services. If you need any help at any time, reach out! Come meet our featured counselor, Yu-An Chien, LCSW!

Feel Your Feelings: Managing Finals-Induced Stress*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, May 5, 2025 from 5-6pm

Finals season is one of the most stressful time in one's college career. Share your stresses as well as helpful tips and trusted techniques to manage stress and finish strong.

Feel Your Feelings: So You've Graduated? The Stress of What's Next!*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 11-12pm

Life after graduation can feel overwhelming. Discuss the challenges and stresses of transitioning from student life to the "real world."

2025 APIDA Excellence Celebration

Location: Student Union Courtyard

Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025 from 5-9pm

We will be recognizing our December 2024, May 2025, and August 2025 graduates as well as celebrating the end of the academic year! Enjoy lots of food, cake, caricatures, balloon art, photobooth, dancing, and more! [RSVP](#) today!

APIDA Field Trip: "Aloha Vaqueros" Exhibit at the San Diego History Center*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, May 9, 2025 from 10am-6pm

Learn about "Hawaiian cowboys" and their connection to San Diego. Also, visit San Diego sites that are connected to Hawaiian history and culture. [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Finals Fun

Location: APIDA Center

Date: May 12 to May 15 from 5-8pm

Join us from 5-8pm for fun, de-stressing activities that offer a break from studying for finals:

- Monday, May 12: Sustainable Stitching
- Tuesday, May 13: Weaving Wonders
- Wednesday, May 14: Game Night
- Thursday, May 15: Movie Night

APIDA Camping & Student Leadership Retreat*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Friday, May 23 to Sunday, May 25, 2025

Remember 6th grade camp? Didn't get a chance to go? Let's go! All expenses including transportation, lodging, meals, activities, etc. will be provided. We will travel to Cuyamaca to enjoy the great outdoors, team-building, leadership development, and more! [RSVP](#) by 5pm on Monday, May 5th.

Craft for a Cause

Location: APIDA Center

Dates: All Semester Long!

Crochet, knit, and loom hats, scarves, blankets, etc. with us. We will donate our hand/heart-made goods to local communities in need! Come to the APIDA Center and craft away. Instructions and supplies will be provided.

NOTE: In order to participate in the workshop (i.e., crafts, food, etc.) and/or earn [APIDA SWAG](#), course extra credit, etc., you must attend events on time and in their entirety and be engaged for the entire event. For events marked with an asterisk (), we will not permit attendees after the indicated start time. We don't want you to miss out on anything and we want to be courteous to the presenters.*

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- [Pacific Islander Student Association \(PISA\)](#) is accepting applications for [2025-2026 Executive Board Elections](#) until Sun, April 27.
- [Sikh Student Association \(SSA\)](#) is hosting [Peanut Butter & Jelly Community Service Event](#) on Sun, April 27 at 12pm at The Rive Clubhouse.
- [AB Samahan](#) is hosting [Q&A Night](#) on Fri, May 2 from 4:30-9:30pm in Legacy Suite.

Community Center Partners:

- The [Pride Center](#) is hosting [Free HIV Testing](#) on Mon, April 28 from 11-4pm.
- The [Center for Intercultural Relations \(CIR\)](#) and the [Office for Graduate Life and Diversity](#) are hosting [Relax and Refuel Stations](#) from April 28 to May 2 and May 5 to May 9 from 12-4pm.
- The [Native Resource Center \(NRC\)](#) is hosting [Native & Indigenous Graduate Support Group](#) on Tues, April 29 at 1pm. They are also hosting [Spring Vision Boarding](#) on Tues, April 29 from 3:30-5pm.
- The [Undocumented Resource Center \(URC\)](#) is hosting [Graduation Cap Decoration](#) starting Thurs, May 1 from 12:30-1:30pm.
- The [Gus and Emma Thompson Black Resource Center \(BRC\)](#) is hiring Grad Assistants. [Apply](#) by May 19.

Campus Partners:

- The [Office for Graduate Life & Diversity](#) and [SDSU Career Services](#) are hosting a [Resume Workshop](#) on Tues, April 29 from 12-1pm. [RSVP](#) today!
- Office of Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach, and Success is hiring [EOP Summer Bridge Peer Mentors](#). [Apply](#) by April 30.
- The SDSU History Department is hosting the 41st Annual Appleby Memorial Lecture entitled, "Ambedkar in Black America: Race, Caste, and Solidarity" on Fri, May 2 from 3:30-5:00pm at Bernstein theatre 161.
- Semillas at SDSU is accepting applications for their [Summer Research Fellowship Program](#). [Apply](#) by May 9.
- The [SDSU Presidential Staff Excellence Awards](#) are due on Fri, May 9.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- The 2025 San Diego Asian Film Festival Spring Showcase will be taking place through Thurs, May 1. [Buy tickets](#) today!
- Khmer American Mutual Association (KAMA) of San Diego is hosting the [2025 Khmer New Year Festival](#) on Sun, April 27 from 10-5pm at Colina Del Sol Park.
- The Wat Rattanamoungkhoun in Temecula, CA is hosting a [Lao New Year Celebration](#) on Sun, April 27.
- The San Diego Japanese Coordinating Council will be hosting a [Keiro Kai](#) event celebrating seniors on Sun, April 27 at 11am at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. RSVP to [Yumi Nagao](#).
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

From Our Special Partner: [Math and Science Teacher Initiative \(MSTI\)](#)

- MSTI is looking for a Student Assistant! [Apply](#) today!
- MSTI is offering free California Subject Examination Prep courses for aspiring Math and Science teachers in summer 2025. [Register](#) soon!
- MSTI is providing a Crash Course in Science Teaching program from May 19-23. Completion of the program renders eligibility for a \$500 MSTI Scholarship! [Apply](#) today!
- MSTI is hiring 6th-12th grade Math and Science tutors for the 2025-2026 academic year. [Apply](#) today!

The image displays four promotional posters for the Math and Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI) at San Diego State University. The first poster, titled 'WE ARE HIRING', seeks a Student Assistant for the Mathematics/Science Teacher Initiative, listing requirements like being an SDSU student and offering contact information. The second poster, 'FREE CSET PREP COURSES', advertises free preparation for the California Subject Examination in Teaching for Summer 2025, listing course benefits and subjects offered. The third poster, 'CRASH COURSE IN SCIENCE TEACHING', promotes a program from May 19-23 that includes a scholarship, with QR codes for registration and application. The fourth poster, 'NOW HIRING TUTORS', seeks 6th-12th grade Math and Science tutors for the 2025-2026 academic year, listing qualifications and providing an application link and website.

Paid Internships & Scholarships

Paid Internships:

- **NEW!** BIOVIA Marketing is looking for interns to help with market research, digital campaigns, and more. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The City of Encinitas is looking for part-time Recreation Interns. [Apply](#) by April 27th!
- The Asian American Journalists Association is looking for applicants for the Dinah Eng Leadership Fellowship for mid-career AAJA members. [Apply](#) by April 30th.
- CVS Pharmacy in El Cajon is looking for a Graduate Pharmacist Intern. [Apply](#) by May 1st.

Scholarships:

- The Asian American Journalists Association is offering \$1,500 through their Vincent Chin Memorial Scholarship to a student journalist. [Apply](#) by April 30th.
- Washington International Diplomatic Academy is offering scholarships to students who are interested in participating in their Summer Diplomatic Academy program. [Apply](#) by April 30th.
- The Samoa Association of San Diego is offering scholarships to undergraduate students of Samoan ancestry. [Apply](#) by April 30th.
- The Asian American Journalists Association Sports Task Force is offering the Jimmie & Suey Fong Yee Grants of \$2,000 each to two undergraduate or graduate students pursuing careers in sports journalism. [Apply](#) by April 30th.
- The Asian American Architects and Engineers Foundation is offering scholarships to students pursuing a degree in fields related to architecture, interior design, and engineering. [Apply](#) by May 1st.
- **NEW!** Indigenous Journalists Association and Asian American Journalists Association are offering two \$5,000-rewards through the Pacific Islander Scholarship program. [Apply](#) by May 31st.
- Against The Grain Productions is offering \$1,500 to current college students of Asian and/or Pacific Islander ethnicity. [Apply](#) by May 31st.
- **NEW!** Delete Cyberbullying is offering \$1,000 through the Mental Health Awareness Scholarship. [Apply](#) by June 30th.

Do you have a resource to share?

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.