

# DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

## SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



**Read all about it!!!**

**Check your email! Newsletter #136 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)**

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

Center Email: [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)

Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu)

Associate Director: Matthew H Garcia at [mhgarcia@sdsu.edu](mailto:mhgarcia@sdsu.edu)

Assistant Coordinator: Gi Vargas at [ggonzales3@sdsu.edu](mailto:ggonzales3@sdsu.edu)

**connect with us!**



**@sdsuapidacenter**



**SDSU APIDA**

**Resource Center**

**SA+CD**



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

May 9, 2025

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



### Student performers defied gravity!

Our students are soooo talented! We were thrilled to be able to showcase three student performances at our APIDA Excellence Celebration. First, **Catherine Nicole Domingo** opened the night with her amazing rendition of "Defying Gravity." Then, the **Stateside Breakers** gave a hip hop performance that blew us all away. And, finally, our **Korean Fan Dancers** closed the ceremony with class and elegance. What a wonderful night!

### From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Partying like it's 2025!

On May 8, 2025, we hosted our 5th annual APIDA Excellence Celebration where we honored our December 2024, May 2025, and August 2025 graduates. We also celebrated the end of this academic school year. There was much to celebrate, including over five years of APIDA Center programming, services, and resources.

Our party was so much fun! We had awesome food by SDSU catering, karaoke, photo booth, caricatures, and balloon art. The best part of the night, however, was just being in community with our APIDA friends, families, and allies. If you missed out this year, don't worry - we'll do it again next year! (Save the date: Thursday, May 7, 2026!)

### Graduates deserve to fly!

Of course, the stars of our show were our graduates. (See list of names below.) We hope all of our graduates continue to defy the social norms that may bring them down and that they always strive to defy gravity and fly as high as they possibly can. Remember that APIDA joy is everywhere.

To our graduates: The SDSU APIDA community will always be here for you! Cheers!





## December 2024 Graduate

Justin Pacheco

## May 2025 Graduates

Tyra Arandia

Mikayla Baluyot

Maegan Basas

Ellyse Madarang Brimmo

Rianne Nicole Camerino

Neil Jeremy Delos Reyes Catungal

Darren Famisan

Lorena Michelle Ford

Leyla Thais Galindo

Abigail Geraci

Ethan Ho

Albert Houe

Chloe Kim

Claire Kuo

Carissa Lee

Jazlyn Lee

Caroline Lien

Gloria Lin

Bethany Low

Sandy Mach

Robyn Marty

Kathleen Nguyen

Jalen Olsen

Justin Pacheco

Ainsley Jennieve Tolentino Perez

Emma Song

Meiyen Sung

Sonny Tran

Darren Yabut

Christie Yeung

Manami Mia Yoshino

Ingrid Anna Yu

## August 2025 Graduates

Nadine Olalia Feliciano

Ethan Quinn

Justin Williams



2025 APIDA  
Excellence  
CELEBRATION





# Camp/Glamp with APIDA!

SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

**LET'S GO CAMPING!**  
**Student Leadership Retreat**  
**When: May 23-25, 2025**



Sign up by midnight on Sunday, May 11th.  
Link: <https://bit.ly/APIDACamp>

## APIDA Center hosts Camping Trip!

Bonfires, smores, rock climbing, archery, and more! Join us for a super fun [weekend](#) of community-building. Please sign up by midnight on Sunday, May 11th: <https://bit.ly/APIDACamp>

## Complete Survey!

**Navigating Wellness: A Survey  
of Asian & Asian American CSU  
Students**

Scan the QR code to complete the survey  
for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!

[bit.ly/AACARESSurvey](https://bit.ly/AACARESSurvey)



### **Navigating Wellness: A Survey of Asian & Asian American California State University (CSU) Students**

The Asian American Collective Action for Racial Equity and Solidarity (AA CARES) at San Francisco State University is conducting research on the well-being of Asian American students at CSU campuses. Please complete their [survey](#) (approximately 10-15 minutes) for a chance to win a \$50 gift card! In addition, students can participate in a focus group. Each focus group participant will receive \$100 for an hour of their time. The APIDA Center is also providing snacks and swag (while supplies last) for completing the survey!



## APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



### APIDA Center hosts Club Karaoke!

On May 2nd, we partnered with the APIDA Council of Student Organizations (ACSO) to host another Club Karaoke. It was our last social of the year. Students performed and sang their hearts out. We were HOT TO GO!



### APIDA Center makes Masala Chai!

On May 6th, as part of our APIDA Month programming, we hosted a cultural education program about the historical and cultural significance of masala chai. Then, students made their own tea blends and enjoyed drinking chai.



### APIDA Center makes paper!

Do you know the "four great inventions" of Ancient China? They are papermaking, compass, gunpowder, and printing. Imagine a world without these things! For our cultural crafting night on May 7th, in collaboration with the Math Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI), we learned about the history and science behind paper making! We also made our own paper from recycled paper products! The process was messy and challenging, but it was definitely worth it!



### APIDA Center learns Samoan with Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a!

On May 7th, Dr. Grant Muāgututi'a presented an engaging lecture about the Samoan language! We learned about the history and linguistics of the Samoan language, spoke simple Samoan phrases, and learned a Samoan song. Dr. Muāgututi'a was our highlighted scholar for our APIDA Month programming.





## APIDA Center meets Ms. Kylie Olsen!

We partnered with the Math and Science Teacher Initiative (MSTI) to host a meet and greet with Ms. **Kylie Olsen**, a SDSU alumna and math teacher at Montgomery Middle School. We learned about her experiences as a first-year STEM teacher and discussed the importance of APIDA representation in STEM education. Fun Fact: Kylie and **Jalen Olsen** are siblings!



## APIDA Center learns about Asian courting rituals!

On May 7th, as part of our APIDA Month programming, we hosted a cultural education program about Asian courting rituals. We learned about traditional practices such as the Hmong ball toss and dance, Indian Swayamvara and Kama Sutra, Filipino harana, Samoan Moetotolo, and more. In addition to learning about these traditions, we also practiced them! We ended the program with discussions about modern dating and challenges. Many thanks to **Saphannie Him**, graduate student, for teaming up with us to make this happen.



## APIDA Center hosts Feel Your Feelings!

In addition to providing academic support and cultural education, we also strive to support your mental health needs as well. In collaboration with Dr. **Tri Nguyen** from Counseling & Psychological Services, we have hosted four "Feel your Feelings" discussion groups this semester. Topics included talking to parents, intergenerational trauma, finals stress, and post-grad blues. Stay tuned for more collaborations.



# APIDA Flex Alerts!

**Ethan Quinn**, a fourth year English single-subject teaching major, was featured in a SDSU NewsCenter article entitled, "[Celebrating APIDA Heritage Month: Big brother might have a point](#)." Quinn shared how the APIDA Center helped him grow. He said, "I can't imagine what this year would have been like if I hadn't gotten involved with the APIDA Center." Dr. **Loh-Hagan** is also quoted in the article: "We know that, for a variety of reasons, some students may feel lost in a big university setting. As such, spaces like the APIDA Center aim to foster a sense of belonging and build community. Students who feel seen and heard are more likely to get involved, engage and eventually graduate. We welcome any and all students to come be a part of our family."

**Mikayla Baluyot**, a fourth year graphic design major, served on the board as the VP of Graphics of "[The Look](#)," SDSU's first student-run art, fashion, and design publication. Check out their [latest issue](#), especially "Beyond the Western Gaze" by **Rachelle Wong** and "Grandma's Been Human Trafficked!" by **Joshua Silla**.

Dr. **Zhenquian (Zhen) Zhao** was recently hired as an Assistant Professor in the Child and Family Development program in the College of Education. Dr. Zhao is dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of marginalized populations. He will start in Fall 2025.



**We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!**

**Have a flex to share?**

**Email us at [apida@sdsu.edu](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu).**



# APIDA Recommendation: Jenna Ramiscal



**Jenna Ramiscal** is a second-year student majoring in Journalism and minoring in Asian American Studies. She is a staff writer for "[The Daily Aztec](#)" and a board member of [SDSU's chapter of Asian American Journalists Association](#). She recommends Cafe 86, a Filipino American-owned dessert shop. Cafe 86 was established in 2014 by Ginger and James Dimapasok, both of whom wanted to bring the signature ube (purple yam) flavor of the Philippines to a wider audience. Cafe 86 started with a location in Chino, California and has branched out throughout California, Nevada, and Arizona. Jenna said, "I really love the flavor ube and Cafe 86 has such a wide variety of ube desserts, pastries and drinks! There is a location in Chula Vista and I believe another one is opening in Mira Mesa soon. Whenever I go, I always order one of the following: Ube Leche Flan Cupcake, Ube Crinkles or Ube Crack Cheesecake. For drinks, I recommend the Ube Iced Latte or Ube milk tea. Everything is super delicious!"

Fun Fact: Jenna wrote an article about ube entitled, "[Ube, the purple yam rooted in Filipino culture](#)" on her personal website. It covers how the flavors connects to Filipino culture, where it can be found locally in San Diego, and the differing opinions about the flavor being sold by larger companies.



# Upcoming APIDA Center Events

## **Finals Fun**

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, May 12 to Thursday, May 15 from 5-8pm**

Take a study break and join us from 5-8pm for fun, de-stressing activities:

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

## **Hmong-Lao Veterans Day\***

**Location: APIDA Center**

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

During the Vietnam War (1955-1975), the CIA and U.S. Armed Forces recruited and trained Hmong-Lao forces to combat communist forces. Thousands of Hmong-Lao people courageously fought. 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 how May 14th is recognized as Hmong-Lao Veterans Day.

## **Game Night: Catan\***

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 from 6-8pm**

The APIDA Center and the Data Science Initiative (DSI) student organization will be hosting a Catan game night! Learn about Catan and its relation to data science. Learn some algorithms and statistics to enhance your performance. Then, play Catan with us!

## **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.*

## **Student-Led Workshops & Student-Created Social Media Campaigns**

APIDA Center is hosting Student-Led Workshops and Student-Created Social Media Campaigns. This is a great opportunity to share your passion with others. It's also an opportunity to learn how to plan an event or prepare a campaign with our support. We are interested in any and all APIDA-related topics! If you are interested, email Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu).



## APIDA Student Organizations:

- [Nikkei Student Union](#) has announced their 2025-2026 Executive Board on their [Instagram](#).
- [AB Samahan](#) has announced their candidates for their 2025-2026 Executive Board.

## Community Center Partners:

- The [Monarch Unity Resource Center](#) is offering [graduation stoles](#) on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The [Native Resource Center](#) is hosting [Finals Week Prep](#) starting on Mon, May 12.
- The [Latinx Resource Center](#) is hosting [La Despedida Latinx Graduation](#) on Fri, May 16 from 2-4pm in Montezuma Hall.

## Campus Partners:

- The [Office of Graduate Life & Diversity](#) is highlighting students who are graduating from a post-baccalaureate program. Complete [form](#) by May 12th.
- The International Student Center (ISC) is hosting "End of an Era: ISC Closing House and Family Potluck" on Fri, May 16 from 4:30-6:30pm. [RSVP](#) by May 13th.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

## Community Partners:

- The Community Law Project is looking for volunteers to serve as administrators or interpreters this summer. Contact [Lizeth Cervantes](#) for more information.
- Asian Business Association (ABA) San Diego is hosting [ABA Night at Petco Park](#) on Wed, May 14. [RSVP](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). Their next free workshop is entitled "Citizenship" on Thurs, May 15 from 4-5pm. [Register](#) today!

## Paid Internships:

- **NEW!** Omni Hotels & Resorts are looking for Omni Care Interns for Summer 2025. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The Mingei International Museum is looking for part-time seasonal Museum Educators for Summer 2025. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Family Health Centers of San Diego is looking for a part-time Physical Therapy Assistant. [Apply](#) today!

## Scholarships:

- South Asian Journalists Association (SAJA) is offering up to \$30,000 awards to up to six undergraduate and graduate students of South Asian descent or who are interested in covering stories about South Asia and/or the diaspora. [Apply](#) by May 16th.
- **NEW!** Asian Pacific American (APA) Legacy program is offering scholarships to college students of APA descent. [Apply](#) by May 31st!
- 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.
- Pacific Islander Student Association is offering [Frank Sablan Dedication Scholarships](#) for graduating high school seniors of Pacific Islander descent. Apply by June 1st.
- Banyan Treatment Centers is offering \$1,000 to a currently enrolled working students pursuing degrees in nursing, social work, psychology, healthcare administration, and other related fields. [Apply](#) by June 25th.
- **NEW!** Empower Hāna Scholarship is offering \$500 to an undergraduate student of Native Hawaiian ancestry. [Apply](#) by May 26th!
- The University Network is offering \$10,000 to up to five college undergraduates who identify as female pursuing a STEM-related field of education. [Apply](#) by June 30th.
- Delete Cyberbullying is offering \$1,000 through the Mental Health Awareness Scholarship. [Apply](#) by June 30th.

## Do you have an opportunity to share?

**WE ARE HIRING**  
Join the Mathematics/Science Teacher Initiative & the Asian Pacific American Legacy Program in Education. Apply to be a Student Assistant in the College of Education and be a part of our dynamic office team!

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- 10-20 hours a week
- Must be an SDSU student enrolled in 6 units minimum
- Time management and reliability
- Communication and collaboration
- Creativity and adaptability

**CONTACT US:**  
Email: [education@sdstate.edu](mailto:education@sdstate.edu)  
Visit the Q&A Guide to Apply: <https://education.sdsu.edu/research-innovation/steem/>

**FREE CSET PREP COURSES**  
California Subject Examinations Prep for Aspiring Math & Science Teachers  
Summer 2025

**COURSE BENEFITS:**

- Free classes & materials
- Test fee reimbursement
- Open to the public
- Classes via Zoom
- Summer & winter sessions

**COURSES WE OFFER:**

- Multiple Subjects Math
- Multiple Subjects Science
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Foundational Sciences

**SCAN HERE TO REGISTER**

**SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY MATH & SCIENCE TEACHER INITIATIVE**  
Interested in science education? Check out our summer 2025

**CRASH COURSE IN SCIENCE TEACHING**  
Get partnered with a local middle or high school and work alongside experienced teachers! Completion of program renders eligibility for a \$500 MSTI Scholarship!

**May 19 - May 23**

**CONTACT US:**  
<https://education.sdsu.edu/math-science/>  
[edu.msti@sdstate.edu](mailto:edu.msti@sdstate.edu)  
619/594-5206

**MSTI NOW HIRING TUTORS**  
6th - 12th grade Math and Science tutor positions are available now for the 2025-2026 academic year!

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- 10-20 hours a week
- Must be an SDSU student enrolled in 6 units minimum
- Must be able to provide their own transportation to the school site
- Experience is preferred but not required
- Must be available during the school day

**APPLY NOW!**

**MSTI WEBSITE**  
Email: [edu.msti@sdstate.edu](mailto:edu.msti@sdstate.edu) for more information

## 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 now hiring 6th-12th grade Math and Science tutor positions for the 2025-2026 academic year. [Apply](#) today!