

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AND CAMPUS DIVERSITY

SDSU Office of AANAPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



Read all about it!!!

Check your email! Newsletter #138 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

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

Connect with us!



@sdsuapidacenter

SDSU APIDA

Resource Center

SA+CD

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

May 30, 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: APIDA celebrates five years!

On Tuesday, May 27th, we hosted a birthday party to celebrate five years of APIDA joy! It was so great to hang with students, faculty, and staff. We had banh mi, kim chi, cake, and karaoke! It was a fun time with lots of singing, eating, and hanging out! What a great five years we have had - I am so proud of the work we have accomplished and am eternally grateful to my staff, our students, and all of our supporters! Happy 5th birthday to us...and many more birthdays to come!

Many thanks to all the kind and warm messages we received. Here are some of my favorite comments:

Agnes Wong Nickerson, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs & CFO: "Before the APIDA Center, we, Asian Americans, were like scattered grains of rice on campus—everywhere, but not in the same bowl. Then came the Center: a glorious, snack-filled sanctuary where students finally got a room of their own—and not just any room, but one with endless activities and probably the best snacks per square foot on campus. And of course, none of this would be the same without Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan, whose energizer-bunny energy doesn't just light up the room, it practically powers the whole place. I googled what five-year-olds are like, and it turns out they love to dance, sing, and act—so APIDA Center is right on track. Happy 5th birthday! Keep being fabulous, and don't forget to dance and sing like nobody's watching."

Kristen Lemaster, Director of Pierce Greek Life Center: "Y'all work so hard as a team and have transformed the 2nd floor union into a real space of community & belonging."

Cynthia Torres, Director of the Monarch Unity Resource Center: "Kudos to the AMAZING staff who pour their love, time, and creativity into their students via programming, trips, and most of all their time via one-on-one moments with their students!"

Tiago Battastini, Executive Chef: "The APIDA team does a fantastic job supporting student life on campus, and they know how to party!"

Dr. **Caren Sax**, Director of Interwork Institute & Professor Emerita: "I remember when the Center was first started - so glad to see it thriving!"

Jazmine Ibarra, fourth-year student: "Thank you for being my home at SDSU. You made my first year at SDSU so wonderful."

“The APIDA Center has become my second home on campus. I've met amazing people and have felt welcomed and seen from day one.” ~Momoka (Japanese-Chinese-Indonesian American)



“It means so much to go to the APIDA Center, to be greeted kindly, and to be truly heard and celebrated!” ~Alisha (Indo-Fijian American)

“The APIDA Center is one of the main places on campus where I feel a real sense of community...It’s a place where I genuinely feel cared for.” ~Stefano (Japanese-Italian American)



“At the APIDA Center, you can relax and feel comfortable; it’s like a second home.” ~Chloe (Korean American)

“The APIDA Center is a place where students and alumni like me can get resources and experiences about us, for us, and by us.” ~Leiana (Samoan-Filipina American)



Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about San Diego's Ho Chi Minh Trail!

Hiking is a popular pastime in San Diego, especially during the summer months. And we have a spot for you...Hidden in La Jolla Shores' rocky cliffs and mansions is the Ho Chi Minh Trail. This trail offers the most scenic yet challenging hiking experience in San Diego. The hike is a 0.6-mile trail winding between narrow limestone canyon walls down to Black's Beach, a local nudist beach. This trail has steep paths, a walk across a plank, and a descent down a small drop with a rope.

The origin of the trail's name remains unknown; though many believe it was coined by surfers or students looking for a shorter passage to the shore. The nickname is believed to stem from perceived similarities between the trail's treacherous, uneven terrain and the intricate network of paths utilized by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War (1955-1975). Ultimately, the trail bears no genuine connection to its namesake in Vietnam.

The original Ho Chi Minh Trail (Đường mòn Hồ Chí Minh) was a tactical network of trails and passages that spanned from North to South Vietnam. It was named by the United States after Hồ Chí Minh (1890–1969), the revolutionary leader and president of North Vietnam, who was recognized for his pursuit of national unification but also criticized for the authoritarian policies that contributed to conflict and suffering during the Vietnam War. The trail became operational in early 1959, enabling North Vietnamese forces to infiltrate and disrupt the troops and supply lines of South Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. By 1974, it had evolved into a network of marked jungle roads with underground facilities such as hospitals, fuel storage tanks, and supply caches. It served as the main supply route for the North Vietnamese throughout the war, paving the way for their success in finally invading South Vietnam in 1975.

Referring to the San Diego trail by a name linked to a sensitive and difficult time in history can overlook its broader context. In recent years, some have begun calling it the Saigon Trail to distance it from the political weight of "Ho Chi Minh Trail." However, neither name reflects the trail's actual history or cultural relevance, as it has no connection to Vietnam. Recent petitions have called for a new name to acknowledge the trail's controversial associations and to demonstrate greater awareness and respect for those still impacted by the Vietnam War.

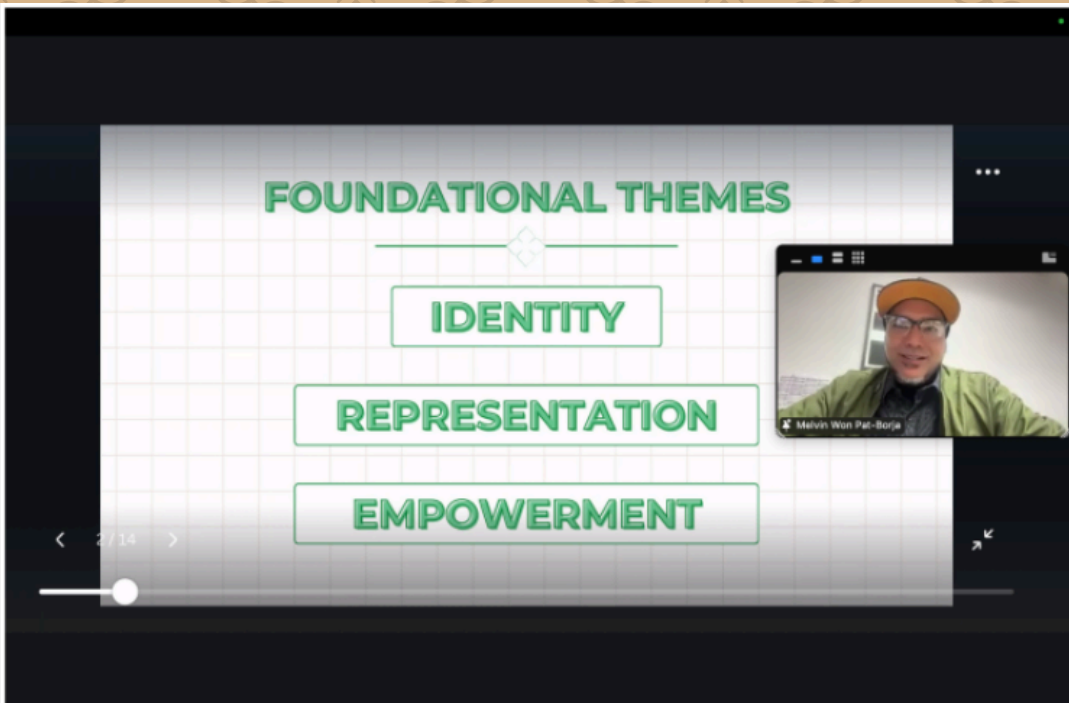
APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center presents at MLA!

On May 19th, we presented our data project as part of this year's Middle Leadership Academy (MLA). Over ten CSU campuses were represented and SDSU was one of them. Our project is entitled, "Establishing AANAPISI Servingness: The Data Report Project." Every five years, we aim to create a comprehensive disaggregated data report about the AANHPI ecosystem at SDSU which will include resources, achievements, equity gaps, recommendations for improvements, etc. Each year, we will provide a summary data report of demographics and achievements. The ultimate objectives of these reports are to (1) increase awareness, (2) inspire support, and (3) inform policies and services that impact and improve the AANHPI student experience.

For this initial work, team members included: Dr. **Loh-Hagan**, **Matthew H Garcia**, **Kathleen King**, **Jacqueline Toy**, **Gi Gonzales Vargas**, **Christine Molina**, Dr. **Stephen Suh**, Dr. **Brian Hu**, and **KB Bennett**.



APIDA Center learns from a Chamoru spoken word poet!

As a proud partner of [The Asian American Education Project](#), we invited students to attend the webinar entitled, "Beats, Rhymes, and Liberation from a Tribe Called Oceania" on May 28th. Attendees learned about Melvin Won Pat-Borja's work as both a Chamoru lyricist and the Executive Director of the Commission of Decolonization on Guam.

Special Highlight: Student Leadership Retreat



John Vu said, "While I mainly went for personal development, there was so much that I was able to take away as a future business professional. The lessons that our leadership activities imparted were not just more of the same old platitudes that you get used to hearing at networking events. They were meaningful, thought-provoking, and most importantly, they were *relevant* to us as Asian Americans..."

Thy Doan said, "The best thing that I got from the trip was more confidence and new friendships...Taking part in all the group activities and not only working with my group members but also winning activities together helped me realize that even though stepping out of your comfort zone is not easy, the first step is the hardest - every step after that will be easier and easier...I think our activities helped me develop my communication skills, which is important because work and life requires expressing your thoughts and ideas clearly so that you can plan and execute your strategies for success while working in team."

We hope to be able to plan more experiences like this for our students. If you are in a position to give, please donate to our **PROGRAM FUND** so that we can support more students.

To Students: This was definitely a not-to-be-missed opportunity. Don't miss out on the next one! Make sure you apply for our programs in the future. Take all the opportunities that come your way.

APIDA Center goes to 6th grade camp!

From May 23-25, the APIDA Center took students to Camp Cuyamaca for a student leadership retreat! We enjoyed hiking, campfires, archery, rock climbing, rock and word crafts, obstacle course, karaoke, talent shows, games, races, and more. We engaged in career development and leadership activities to learn about collaboration, negotiation, growth mindset, and more! It was an amazing weekend of fun and friendship.

Hector Oropeza said, "The student leadership retreat was an astonishing experience where I not only had fun but also learned critical leadership and career development skills that will help me in my future academic and professional endeavors."



Upcoming APIDA Center Events

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.

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.

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- AB Samahan announced their [55th Executive Board](#).
- Most student organizations are taking a summer break. Check out their Instagrams to stay informed!

Community Center Partners:

- The Pride Center is hosting a series of events for [Pride Month](#) starting with a [Rainbow Picnic](#) on Monday, June 2nd from 12-1pm at Turtle Pond.

Campus Partners:

- The Office of Graduate Life & Diversity and the Division of Research and Innovation are hosting [workshops](#) for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program on June 9th, June 16th, and June 23rd. [Apply for the fellowship program](#) by June 8th.
- The Office of Educational Opportunity Programs, Outreach, and Success is hiring [EOP Transfer Bridge Peer Mentors](#) for July 2025. [Apply](#) by June 2nd.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- Bridge The Gap San Diego is hosting their [BTG Creative Summit](#) on Saturday, May 31st from 12-7pm at The Hub at Eastlake. [Buy tickets](#) soon!
- Lotus Magazine is hosting an [AAPI Pop-up Market](#) on Saturday, May 31st from 1-5pm at Kilowatt Brewing San Diego.
- The Japanese American Citizens League San Diego is hosting a premiere of "League of Dreams" at the UltraStar Cinemas Mission Valley at 4pm. [Buy tickets](#) today!
- 'Umeke is hosting "Lei Hilo" on June 1st from 10-2pm. [Register](#) today!
- Ellucian, in partnership with the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) is hosting a workshop entitled, "Landing the Job" on Wednesday, June 11th at 12pm on Zoom. [Register](#) today!
- The Higher Education Legal Services and Jewish Family Services are hosting a free webinar entitled, "Immigration Policy Updates" on June 12th at 12pm. [Register](#) today!
- Lao San Diego is hosting the [3rd Annual Lao Food Festival](#) from June 21-22 at Allied Gardens Community Park. [Buy tickets](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

Paid Internships & Scholarships

Paid Internships:

- **NEW!** Lavner Education is looking for a STEM Instructor Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Art of Problem Solving Online is looking for an Institutional Sales Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The California Coastal Commission is looking for interns for the [Peter Douglas Internship](#) program. [Apply](#) by June 13th.

Scholarships:

- 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.
- AlChe Minority Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to undergraduate students in chemical engineering from underrepresented communities. [Apply](#) by June 15th!
- 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!** The Hyundai Women in STEM Scholarship is offering \$10,000 to five female students pursuing a STEM-related field. [Apply](#) by June 30th.
- 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.
- **NEW!** The Asian Business Association Foundation is offering \$1,000 to two undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by July 7th.