

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



Stay informed! Stay connected!

Check your email! Newsletter #142 is out!

Subscribe to the newsletter: <https://bit.ly/SDSUAPIDA>

Read previous newsletters: <https://apida.sdsu.edu/archives/newsletters>



APIDA Center Hours:
Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00pm
Friday 10:00-4:30pm

**Location: 2nd floor of Student Union
Rooms #210A-K (directly above Starbucks)**

connect with us!



APIDA Center Website: <https://apida.sdsu.edu>
APIDA Center Email: apida@sdsu.edu
Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpisi.sdsu.edu>
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter

SDSU APIDA Resource Center

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

August 29, 2025



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: First week of classes!

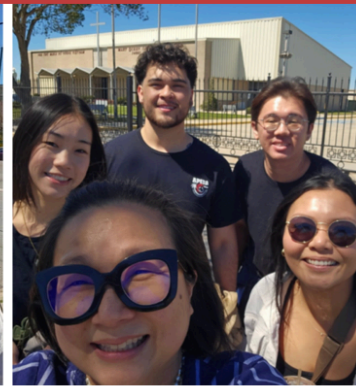
Our campus grounds are full of students. Faculty are back on campus. And, the Starbucks lines are long. It's official - the Fall 2025 semester is underway. We just finished our first week of classes; only 14 more weeks to go! :)

Here are my top five tips for a successful semester:

- Get organized right away. Get a planner and mark all your class sessions and due dates. (Go to all your classes!)
- Block out time to study. Make appointments with yourself to get your work done.
- Make connections. New friends are everywhere. Form study groups and social groups.
- Read everything! This includes emails, newsletters, etc. You don't want to miss out on anything.
- Come to the APIDA Center! Ask for help, hang out, and get involved. We are here for you.

To all new and returning students: Welcome home!

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about Versailles!

Twenty years ago on this date in history - August 29, 2005 - Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in Louisiana, including the community of "Versailles. The name refers to the "Versailles Arms Apartment" which was the New Orleans East public housing project where Vietnamese refugees had first resettled after fleeing the Fall of Saigon in 1975. These Vietnamese refugees built a thriving working-class community outside of New Orleans. When the levees broke flooding 80% of the city, the Vietnamese in Versailles found themselves fleeing once again. At this time, Father Vien Nguyen was the pastor of the Mary Queen of Vietnam Church. He called people back for mass; under his leadership, Versailles was rebuilt faster than other neighborhoods in New Orleans due to the care and connection of the community and they did this without much government help.

After Hurricane Katrina passed and as Versailles residents pursued a redevelopment plan, the mayor of New Orleans signed an executive order to convert a deep pit in the wetlands of eastern New Orleans, known as Chef Menteur, into a landfill. Dumping into Chef Menteur allowed toxins to leak into Versailles. Youth from the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA-NO) protested to shut down the landfill. Environmental groups such as the Sierra Club and Black Americans from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference joined. Because of this cross-cultural solidarity, the landfill was shut down. Vietnamese and Black Americans also worked together in other ways. For example, they stopped developers from profiting off the Katrina disaster and they fought for more resources. Father Vien Nguyen said, "Now, no one would dare speak about rebuilding New Orleans without mentioning our community, because they know we are back. They know we are here."

The APIDA Center is reminded of our March trip to New Orleans where we visited Versailles and the Mary Queen of Vietnam Church. A student said, "This trip helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the important part the Asian American community played in shaping our country into the place it is today. I found it interesting how a significant amount of the Vietnamese population came to New Orleans when fleeing to the United States in the 1970's and started a whole new life for themselves. In doing so, they changed the city with their contributions to its culture, economy, and culinary scene." As the 50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon, 2025 marks 50 years of Southeast Asian American history. The APIDA Center will continue to host programs to commemorate that.

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



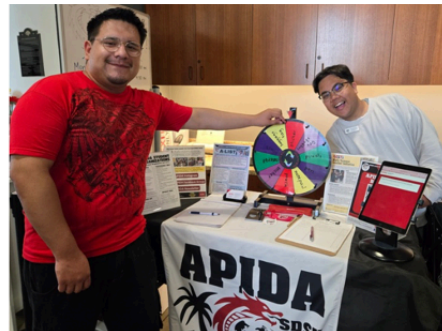
APIDA Center hosts a Welcome Back Open House!

On Monday, August 25th, which was the first day of classes of the Fall 2025 semester, we welcomed students back to the APIDA Center. During our Open House, students enjoyed eating snacks, making new connections, and building community. It was so wonderful meeting new friends and reuniting with old friends.



APIDA Center at the San Diego Book Festival!

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, KPBS hosted the inaugural San Diego Book Festival, a free event for book lovers of all ages. The APIDA Center, via **Gi Gonzales**, proudly tabled at the event. Dr. **Loh-Hagan** moderated a panel entitled, "Finding Your Voice & Taking A Stand in Children's Lit." (Standby for more info about our One Book One San Diego partnership! YAY!)



APIDA Center tables at Student Union events!

This past week, the APIDA Center participated in several campus Welcome Week events including the Ask Me! tents, Union Unlocked, and One SDSU Kickoff. All these events are designed to provide students with support, resources, and a sense of belonging.



APIDA Center revamps our HAPI Hours!!!

Next week, we are launching are revamped [APIDA Center HAPI Hours](#)!!! (HAPI stands for "Happy" and "Asian Pacific Islander" - Get it?!?) On Monday through Thursday nights, we will be hosting themed programs. Join us!!! These events count toward our APIDA VIP SWAG club!

APIDA Flex Alerts!

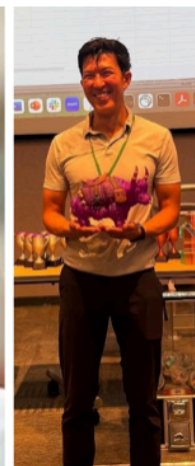
Krissa Jackson, a fourth-year Public Health major and Student Assistant at the APIDA Center, was featured in a SDSU NewsCenter article entitled, "[How SDSU's APIDA Center reshaped one student's story.](#)"

Alizei De Leon, a recent graduate who majored in accounting, was featured in a SDSU NewsCenter article entitled, "[Easing stress and creating opportunity: The lifelong impact of donor support for scholarships.](#)" De Leon will be working for Deloitte this October.

Several [faculty members](#) were promoted and/or tenured for the 2025-2026 academic year, including Dr. **Alicia Kinoshita**, Dr. **Chyun Oh**, and more!

Dr. **Alvin Henry**, the Chair of Asian American Studies, earned the "Yak" award for his stellar coding skills at the CSU AI Summer Camp hosted by Amazon Web Services and CalPoly San Luis Obispo.

Dr. **Hsien-Chang Lin**, the Department Chair and Professor of Child and Family Development has recently contributed to two publications: "[Optimal Urinary Cotinine and Total Nicotine Equivalents \(TNE-2\) Cut-points for Distinguishing Tobacco Users from Non-Users among American Youth](#)" (*Nicotine & Tobacco Research*) and "Meme Exposure on Social Media Associated with More Positive E-Cigarette Perceptions and Greater Usage Among Youth" (*Journal of Health Communication*).



We want to celebrate the SDSU APIDA community!

Have a flex to share?

Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

Supporter Spotlight



APIDA Center congratulates Dr. Robyn Adams!

After more than 21 years of dedicated service to SDSU, Dr. **Robyn Adams** has retired! From her early days as an SDSU Ambassador to her impactful leadership as Director of Parent and Family Programs, Dr. Adams has left a lasting legacy. She has always been an ally to the APIDA Center, including completing all the requirements for the SDSU APIDA Pledge in 2020 and collaborating with us to train ambassadors. In addition, Dr. Adams also mentored **Matthew H Garcia**, our Associate Director when he first started as a graduate student. We are forever grateful to Dr. Adams for setting high standards, expecting the best, and serving as a role model of strong female leadership.

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

Game Night Tuesday: Social Deduction Games*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025 from 5-7pm

Do you like to play games like Mafia, Saboteur, and Among Us? How sus are you? Join us to play social deduction games!

Watch Party Wednesday: Hawaiian-Themed Movie*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025 from 5-7pm

Let's kick off Hawaiian History Month! Join us to watch a Hawaiian-themed movie and enjoy some Hurricane Popcorn!

Takeover Thursday: Starting Smart - Strategies for Success*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025 from 5-7pm

Feeling anxious about the new school year? Join us to for a mental health check-in and learn some strategies for to help navigate the start of the semester. We are here for you! Our Takeover Host is Dr. Tri Nguyen.

SDSU Food Safety Training*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2025 from 3-4pm

Are you planning to serve food at a public event? If so, SDSU requires food safety training. Attend one of the [Fall 2025 sessions](#). The training is good for one year.

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.*

SAVE THE DATES!

Here are some upcoming APIDA Center events:

- Wed, Sept 24, 2025 from 5-7pm: APIDA Resource Fair
- Fri, Oct 3, 2025 from 3-4pm: Family Weekend Open House
- Thurs, Oct 30, 2025 from 1-6pm: Makers Market
- Wed, Dec 3, 2025 from 12-3pm: APIDA Collectibles Fair
- Tues, Feb 17, 2026 from 12-2pm: Lunar New Year Festival
- Thurs, May 7, 2026 from 5-9pm: APIDA Excellence Celebration

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- The [Taiwanese Student Association \(TSA\)](#) announced their [2025-2026 Executive Board](#).
- [Tabletop Gaming Club at SDSU](#) is hosting a series of [September meetings](#) starting with a Meet & Greet on Tues, Sept 2 at 5:30pm at Turtle Pond.
- The [Asian Pacific Student Alliance \(APSA\)](#) is hosting their first [general body meeting](#) on Fri, Sept 5 from 2-3pm in Legacy Suite.
- [Badminton Club at SDSU](#) is hosting [practice sessions](#) every Friday from 4-6pm at the ARC South Court starting on Sept 5.

Community Center Partners:

- The [Women's Resource Center \(WRC\)](#), along with the Basic Needs Center and Well-being & Health Promotion, is hosting [Period Pop-Ups](#) on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout Fall 2025. The next tabling event will be on Tues, Sept 2 from 2:30-4:00pm at the Rose Garden.
- [The Pride Center](#) is hosting "Lounge with Luna" on Tuesdays throughout Fall 2025. The next program will be on Tues, Sept 2 from 3-4pm.
- [Project Rebound](#) is hosting [Dr. Megan Welsh](#) to share more information on sanitation justice research on Wed, Sept 3 at 10am in PSFA 108.

Campus Partners:

- The Charles Wei-hsun Fu Center for Asian and Pacific Studies is looking for [Student Assistants for Fall 2025](#). If interested, send your resume to [Dr. Minjeong Kim](#).
- The Cal Coast Student Financial Center is looking to hire an Administrative Coordinator. [Apply](#) today!
- Career Services is hosting [EY recruiters](#) on Tues, Sept 2nd from 10-1pm in front of Student Services 1200.
- Counseling & Psychological Services' Dr. Tri Nguyen will be hosting [Talk It Out](#) sessions on Thursdays from 3-4pm on [Zoom](#) starting on Sept 4.
- Applications for Homecoming Court are now open! [Apply](#) by Sept 22.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- Taupou Samoa Cultural Arts and the San Diego Foundation is offering the TU I LUGA "RISE UP" Youth Program which supports the wellness of Samoan and AANHPI youth in San Diego. [Register](#) today!
- The Japanese American Citizens League San Diego is hosting a Kiku Cooking Class on Sat, Sept 13 from 11-1pm. [Register](#) by Sat, Sept 6th.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#).

Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** The California Botanical Society is offering the Paul Silva Student Research Grant to qualified student researchers. [Apply](#) today!
- *Alon Journal for Filipinx American and Diasporic Studies* is looking for submissions from high school and undergraduate students focused on [Contemporary Filipinx-ness from a Youth Lens](#). [Submit](#) by Sept. 1st. (Contact apida@sdsu.edu if you would like support.)
- **NEW!** Abstract submissions for the CSU Biotechnology Research Symposia are now open. [Apply](#) by Sept. 15th.
- The Getty Library is accepting research grant applications from students researching art history, visual culture, culinary studies, or conservation. [Apply](#) by Oct. 1st!
- The *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* is looking for [research proposals](#) on the impacts of structural and social determinants of health, including multiple forms of racism and minoritization, in child and adolescent mental health. Submit a proposal by Dec. 1st.

Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Bubble Ball Business Association is looking for a Social Media Marketing Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** RetroVirox is looking for part-time interns pursuing a career in Biotechnology. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The County of San Diego is looking for part-time Student Workers. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The La Jolla Institute for Immunology is looking for an Immunology Intern. [Apply](#) today!

Scholarships

- The Alvarez Family Scholarship is offering support to students from immigrant families. [Apply](#) by Aug. 31st.
- Education Dynamics is offering \$10,000 to a first-generation minority college student. [Apply](#) by Sept. 15th.
- Headway is offering the Book Lovers Scholarship worth \$1,500 to all students pursuing higher education. [Apply](#) by Sept. 15th.
- The Asian American & Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus Foundation is offering \$2,500 to AANHPI college students. [Apply](#) by Sept. 30th.
- **NEW!** The Creative Biolabs scholarship is offering \$1,000 to an undergraduate, graduate, or Ph.D. student pursuing a career in a science-related field. [Apply](#) by Sept. 30th.
- **NEW!** The Buckfire Law's Medical Diversity Scholarship is offering \$2,000 to one student of an ethnic, racial, or other minority background. [Apply](#) by Oct. 1st.
- **NEW!** The DP Law Encouraging Diversity Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to a minority law or pre-law student. [Apply](#) by Oct. 31st.