

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center



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



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SDSU APIDA
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SA+CD

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

December 19, 2025



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Happy holidays from APIDA staff!

The Fall 2025 semester is over and Winter Break is here! We just celebrated our last day on campus before the holidays. We had our last staff meeting of the year, our annual gift exchange, and our annual staff holiday dinner. We shared favorite memories, funny moments, and more. As we move into our sixth year, we are so proud of our accomplishments and look forward to more adventures. I am so grateful for a fabulous staff, super fun students, and wonderful friends/partners. Happy holidays and happy new year - from the SDSU APIDA family to you and yours! Be well, be safe, and be happy!

SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center

December 2025-January 2026

Winter Break Modified Hours

Dec 22-28, 2025: CLOSED
Dec 29-31, 2025: 10:00-4:30pm (VIRTUAL APPTS ONLY)
Jan 1, 2026: CLOSED
Jan 2, 2026: 10:00-4:30pm (VIRTUAL APPTS ONLY)
Jan 5-16, 2026: 10:00-4:30pm
Jan 19, 2026: CLOSED

Regular hours resume January 20, 2026!

For virtual appointments, contact: apida@sdsu.edu

We wish you a happy holiday season! Swipe to learn about various Asian/APIDA holidays!

Winter Break Modified Hours

The APIDA Center is observing modified hours for winter break. We will resume regular hours on January 20, 2026.

Our next newsletter will be on January 16, 2026.

Please make sure to take time to rest, relax, and recharge. We will see you in the new year!

Donor Spotlight: Dr. Rafaela Santa Cruz



APIDA Center thanks Dr. Rafaela Santa Cruz!

Dr. **Rafaela Santa Cruz** has once again given the APIDA Center the best holiday gift ever! Thanks to her generous gift of \$5000, we will be able to support more student programming. Dr. Santa Cruz said, "I am so impressed by the amount of educational student events at the APIDA Center. I am honored to provide a little support."

Dr. Santa Cruz is professor emerita of mathematics education and former director of the Joint Doctoral Program in Education. In addition, she is Dr. Loh-Hagan's mentor and former boss during her College of Education days (life before the APIDA Center). Dr. Loh-Hagan said, "Dr. Santa Cruz is one of my most favorite people. She is a strong female leader with a wicked sense of humor. I am honored to be a recipient of her kindness and am proud to have learned so much from her."

Sign up for AAS classes!



APIDA Center is offering AAS 488!

This past semester, the APIDA Center in collaboration with the Asian American Studies department, piloted the first AAS 488 course which focused on applying Asian American Studies. (Student testimonials coming soon!) We will continue to offer this 3-unit course in Spring 2025. Sign up for it today. Limited seats so sign up soon!

In addition, sign up for other Asian American Studies (AAS) and Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS) courses.

"Know history, Know self. No History, No Self."

Know APIDA History!



APIDA Center learns about Valerio's Bakeshop!

Pan de sal is a beloved soft and mildly sweet Filipino bread roll. Although it is enjoyed year-round, it holds a special place during the holiday season, featuring in festive meals and special holiday variations. Filipino bakeries often highlight pan de sal during the "12 days of Christmas" countdown.

In San Diego, multiple Filipino bakeries produce pan de sal daily, one being Valerio's. Valerio's Bakeshop in National City was the first to open in the United States. It is a family-owned bakery known for serving fresh hot pan de sal and various Filipino desserts. The baker originated in the 1950s, when Victor Valerio Sr. (1920–1988) opened Cavite City Bakery in the Philippines, where the family prepared pan de sal each morning. His son, Jaime "Jimmy" Valerio (1948–2014), later served in the U.S. Navy and relocated to San Diego in the 1970s, which enabled the family to establish a bakery abroad. On May 19, 1979, the first U.S. Valerio's (formerly "Valerio's City Bakery") opened on E. 8th Street in National City.

Today, the bakeshop has expanded across California, the United States, and abroad - with locations in cities such as Carson, Jacksonville, Houston, Honolulu, Seattle, and Toronto. Six of Valerio's children are involved with the success of their family business, and now the fourth generation of the Valerio family continues the legacy.

In 2025, the National City location received national recognition for its pan de sal, winning the Showstopper Savory award at the World Bread Awards USA. As the largest bread-focused competition in the Western Hemisphere, the event draws entries from a wide range of professional and independent bakeries. Valerio's victory marked an important moment for Filipino representation in international baking.

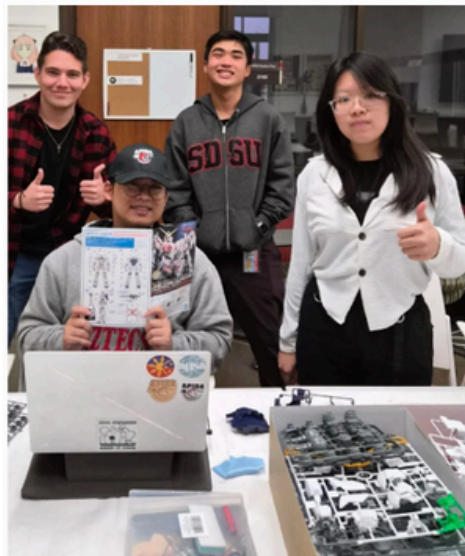
Fun Fact: On Thursday, December 11th, the APIDA Center hosted a student-led workshop on the "History of Pan De Sal," presented by **Jalen Rodriguez** (APIDA Student Intern). Jalen's father owns Valerio's Tropical Bakeshop in Vallejo, California! He said, "Filipino American history is kneaded into each roll of Valerio's pan de sal. It is a reminder that the most mundane things can carry profound meaning."

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center hosts Silent Study Hall!

For the past several years during Finals Week, the APIDA Center has observed silent study hours. We want students to know that the APIDA Center is a great place for all your finals needs as we have study areas, work stations, computers, supplies, and more!



APIDA Center builds a gundam!

During the day, the APIDA Center hosts silent study hall hours but at night from 5-7pm, we host Finals Fun! On Monday, December 15th, students built a giant gundam from a model kit. It was truly a team effort! We love inspiring students to pick up new hobbies!



APIDA Center makes zines!

For Finals Fun on Tuesday, December 19th, the APIDA Center and One SDSU hosted a Zines workshop. With the help of Vince Alvendia, a local comics artist from Egg Drop Ramen Studio, attendees learned about zines and then got busy making some zines. We officially started the APIDA Center's Zine collection! Standby for more zines events!



APIDA Center hosts a Watch Party!

During our last Finals Fun sessions on December 17 and 18, the APIDA Center hosted a Watch Party. Students kicked back, relaxed, and enjoyed watching shows!

News from APIDA ERG



APIDA ERG hosts annual holiday party!

The [SDSU APIDA Employee Resource Group](#) (ERG) is a network for APIDA faculty and staff members. We are open to all SDSU employees who identify as APIDA and/or who support the APIDA community at SDSU. If you would like to join the APIDA ERG, please contact Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu. On December 12th, our wonderful CFO, Agnes Wong Nickerson, hosted our annual holiday party and gift exchange. It was a fun night of merriment!

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

Come visit us over Winter Break during our open hours! We will resume our regular hours on January 20, 2026.

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.

SAVE THE DATES!

Here are some upcoming APIDA Center events:

- Tues, Feb 17, 2026 from 12-2pm: Lunar New Year Festival
- Thurs, May 7, 2026 from 5-9pm: APIDA Excellence Celebration



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 apida@sdsu.edu.

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- Nikkei Student Union at SDSU is looking for Spring Interns. [Apply](#) by Jan 2.

Community Center Partners:

- Most SDSU Community Centers will have modified hours for Winter Break. Be sure to check their Instagram pages for more information!
- The Pride Center is looking for volunteers for Spring 2026. [Apply](#) by Jan 5.
- The Black Resource Center is participating at the 44th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade on Sun, Jan 18 from 10-1pm. [Sign up](#) to join!

Campus Partners:

- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- The San Diego Natural History Museum is hosting listening sessions on Jan 10 and Jan 11 to conclude a county-wide study focused on nature access and well-being. [Register](#) to participate by Jan 9.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). The next free webinar entitled, "Celebrating Sikh Turbans as Articles of Faith Representing Faith, Equality, and Justice," is on Thurs, Jan 15. [Register](#) today!

Research Opportunities

- The [2026 SDSU Student Symposium](#) is on Feb 27. [Register](#) to present by Dec 30. The APIDA Center and Office of AANHPI Affairs is hosting a [Special Session](#).
- CREATE Scholars is accepting applications for the 2026 Summer Research cohort. [Apply](#) by Jan 16.
- The SDSU Native Resource Center and Elymash Yuuchaap Indigenous Scholars & Leaders are accepting research presentation proposals for the Native and Indigenous Research and Arts symposium in March 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 6.
- The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is accepting applications for the Conservation Science Summer Fellowship Program. [Apply](#) by Feb 15.
- The SDSU Pride Center and LGBTQ+ Studies Department are calling for research presentation proposals for the 2026 Pride Symposium. [Apply](#) by April 17.

Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Volo San Diego is looking for a Youth Sports Management and Coaching Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** RQ Construction is looking for an Architect Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- The Asian American Journalists Association and ABC News are looking for Summer 2026 interns. [Apply](#) by Jan 21.
- The Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship is offering \$9,500 to juniors and seniors pursuing STEM and social science careers. [Apply](#) by Jan 31.
- The US-Asia Institute is looking for participants for the IMPACT! Filipino American National Internship Program. [Apply](#) by Jan 31.
- The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is looking for Congressional Interns for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 1.
- Google is looking for a Research Intern for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 27.

Scholarships

- The National Writers' Association is offering \$1,000 to support future writers. [Apply](#) by Dec 31.
- The RevPart 2026 STEM Scholarship is offering awards to undergraduate students pursuing a STEM-related career. [Apply](#) by Dec 31.
- APIA Scholars is offering multiple scholarships to undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by Jan 15.
- The Anna Chennault Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to an AAPI graduate student pursuing a journalism career. [Apply](#) by Jan 21.
- ASNT Foundation is offering the Robert B. Oliver Scholarship for pursuing studies in nondestructive testing or related disciplines. [Apply](#) by Jan 31, 2026.
- **NEW!** The Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color is offering two \$1,500 awards to students pursuing courses related to archival administration. [Apply](#) by March 1.
- **NEW!** The Matt Fong Asian Americans in Public Finance Scholarship is offering four \$5,000 awards to Asian American undergraduate students majoring in Social Science, Accounting, Business Administration, or related fields. [Apply](#) by April 20.

Do you have an opportunity to share?
Email us at apida@sdsu.edu.

Give to the APIDA Center and help support our programs directly!
Your donation, big or small, makes a huge difference for our center!

Give to the APIDA Center!

To read past newsletters, visit the [APIDA Center newsletter archive](#)!

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