

# SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

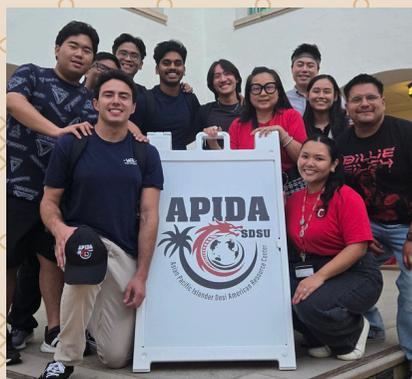


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**APIDA Center Hours:**  
**Monday-Thursday 10:00-7:00pm**  
**Friday 10:00-4:30pm**

**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](mailto:apida@sdsu.edu)  
Office of AANHPISI Affairs: <https://aanhpsi.sdsu.edu>  
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at [vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu)



**@sdsuapidacenter**

**SDSU APIDA  
Resource Center**

**SA+CD**

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

February 20, 2026



## From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Galloping into the Year of the Horse!

On Tuesday, February 17th, we celebrated our 6th annual Lunar New Year celebration with lion dancing, martial arts demonstrations, activity tables, Asian snacks, and more. We tested our luck with the weather and welcomed clear skies and happy hearts - although we did have to pack up about ten minutes earlier than planned in order to escape the rainclouds. We ushered in 2026, the Year of the Fire Horse which signifies passion, rapid shifts, and daring moves. So, in the spirit of the fire horse, let's be bold and brave!

Always a festive affair, our Lunar New Year celebration has instilled cultural pride and a sense of belonging. **John Vu**, a third year Business major, said, "As a Vietnamese American student, having a Lunar New Year festival at SDSU is so rewarding because not only do I get to celebrate and deepen my connection to my culture, but I get to witness firsthand the joy and wonder that my culture inspires in others as well."

**Dr. Alicia Kinoshita**, Associate Professor of Engineering, shared her gratitude. She continued, "I remember my mom and dad taking me to Chinatown, which was probably about 45 mins away (or more with traffic!) to see the parade and watch the lions bless the shops. Today, things are so different. Lunar new year celebrations are more accessible from the APIDA Center event at the Student Union to my local malls. For me, this time of year brings a lot of nostalgia and seeing the community celebrating together brings a true sense of belonging."



## Thanks to campus partners who made our Lunar New Year celebration a success!

As always, it takes a village to host a good party. Many thanks to all those who helped and to all those who attended the event. The following groups hosted activity tables:

- APIDA Center: Button-Making and Fortune-Telling
- APIDA Employee Resource Group: Wishing Tree
- Asian American Studies: Gratitude Cards
- Center for Asian & Pacific Studies: Horse Stencil
- Asian Pacific Student Alliance: Yut Nori
- Japanese Student Association: Origami
- Phi Beta Delta SDSU: Vietnamese Language Game
- REO APIDA Affinity Group: Red Envelopes
- Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers: Paper Lanterns and Paper-Cutting Banners
- Taiwanese Student Association: Calligraphy and Couplets
- Vietnamese Student Association: Bau Cua Ca Cop

In addition, we would like to thank Liza Bennett, White Dragon of East County, APIDA ERG volunteers, and APIDA Center staff.



## APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



### APIDA Center makes Dây Trang Trí Tết!

On Monday, February 16th, we learned about Dây Trang Trí Tết, which are traditional hanging ornaments used to adorn homes, offices, and streets during Tết (Vietnamese Lunar New Year). Then, we made our own Dây Trang Trí Tết!



### APIDA Center celebrates Lunar New Year at The Garden!

On Tuesday, February 17th, we collaborated with SDSU Dining to celebrate Lunar New Year at The Garden. This is our third year hosting this themed dinner. Many thanks to Executive Chef **Tiago Battastini** and his staff for the continued partnership. We learned about various traditional dishes and then filled our bellies. Elijah Guiao, a second-year computer engineering major, said, "Lunar New Year at The Garden was a lot of fun. The food was even better. My favorite dish was the char siu pork shoulder."



### APIDA Center hosts a Wong Fu Productions Watch Party!

On Wednesday, February 18th, we learned about Wong Fu Productions, a pioneering independent digital production company dedicated to amplifying Asian and Asian American visibility. Founded by UCSD graduates, Wongfu has amassed a huge YouTube following and have launched the careers of several big stars. We watched their Lunar New Year-themed short films and videos. (A few years ago, we hosted several Wong Fu members.) Fun Fact: Philip Wang (born 1984), one of the founders, featured Dr. Loh-Hagan's book entitled, "A is for Asian Americans" in his IG/TikTok [video](#)!



## APIDA Center honors Day of Remembrance!

On Thursday, February 19th, we observed the Day of Remembrance which commemorates the 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066 which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II (1939-1945). We learned more about the incarceration experience, focusing on how some of the incarcerated resisted by making art - specifically by making artificial flowers from available scraps. To learn more, read this article entitled, ["Japanese American Incarceration: Seeking Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Through Art."](#)



## APIDA Center screens "Nurse Unseen"!

On Thursday, February 19th, in collaboration with AAS 460, we hosted a screening of "Nurse Unseen" (2023), a documentary that explores the vital, yet overlooked, contributions of Filipino and Filipino American nurses in the U.S. healthcare system. The film highlights their history of migration, their experiences as frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and their struggles against anti-Asian hate. Participants shared how the film opened their eyes to the invisible labor performed by Filipino/Fil-Am nurses.

# News from APIDA ERG



## **APIDA ERG volunteers at Lunar New Year celebration!**

Many thanks to **Jacqueline Toy**, **Melissa Silverman**, and **Pang Thao** for hosting tables at our event. We appreciate your time! Also, thanks to all those who offered to help and who attended our event.

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](mailto:vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu).

# APIDA Recommendation: White Dragon of East County



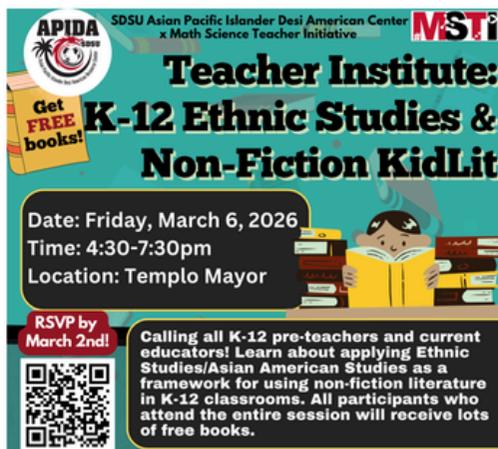
## **APIDA Center recommends White Dragon Martial Arts of East County!**

Lion dancing is closely tied to Southern Chinese Kung Fu traditions. For generations, practitioners have integrated lion dancing into their training. Today, lion dancing continues to offer a vigorous workout and a cultural experience. As a major part of many East and Southeast Asian festivals, lion dancing plays a significant role in warding off evil spirits and welcoming good luck and fortune.

Lion dancing in San Diego emerged in the 1930s in the original downtown Chinatown (now known as Gaslamp). The main purpose was to bless businesses and usher in a fortunate lunar new year. The San Diego Lucky Lion Dancers, established as part of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA), are the oldest team in the area.

However, [White Dragon Martial Arts of East County](#), which was established in April 1990, is considered to be among the oldest and largest lion dancing groups in San Diego. It practices the Fo-Shan style which combines martial arts, dance, and music. The SDSU APIDA Center has worked with White Dragon Martial Arts of East County for the past 4 years. We highly recommend them! We are big fans of Nakonsy Truong and little Hazel.

## Upcoming APIDA Center Events



APIDA SDSU Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Center x Math Science Teacher Initiative MSTI

**Teacher Institute: K-12 Ethnic Studies & Non-Fiction KidLit**

Get FREE books!

Date: Friday, March 6, 2026  
Time: 4:30-7:30pm  
Location: Templo Mayor

RSVP by March 2nd!

Calling all K-12 pre-teachers and current educators! Learn about applying Ethnic Studies/Asian American Studies as a framework for using non-fiction literature in K-12 classrooms. All participants who attend the entire session will receive lots of free books.

### Event Spotlight: Nonfiction KidLit

Do you love free books?! Say less! Attend our [Teacher Institute: K-12 Ethnic Studies & Non-Fiction KidLit](#). All participants who attend the entire session will leave with 10-50+ books for your classroom libraries. Bring Your Own Bags! Take as many books as you can carry! [RSVP](#) by March 2.

### [Cultural Crafting Night: Torma\\*](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Monday, February 23, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Torma are sculpted ritual offerings traditionally made of barley flour and yak butter. These sculpted offerings are created during Losar (or Tibetan New Year) to honor deities. Learn about Losar and the significance of torma. Then, create your own torma-inspired craft!

### [Leveling Up: Navigating Upper Division Status\\*](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 from 3-4pm**

Are you planning to take upper division courses soon? Learn about what being "upper division" status means. Also, learn about campus resources that will help you complete your degree. Level up!

### [Role-Playing Game Night](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Join us and roll for initiative! Create your character and go on a quest with the APIDA Center gang. We will play a Lunar New Year themed campaign entitled, "The Jade Emperor's Invitation" (5e DnD adventure) by Kim Richards. All levels welcome.

### [Watch Party: Seollal & K-Drama\\*](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Dates: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Celebrate Seollal (Korean Lunar New Year) with us by learning about K-dramas. Seollal's emphasis on family gatherings, traditional rituals, and food is a key backdrop for some of our favorite K-dramas.

### [Buffalo Soldiers in the Philippines\\*](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Dates: Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 2-3pm**

Did you know that black soldiers served in the Philippine-American War? In honor of Black History Month, learn about the involvement of "Buffalo Soldier" regiments during the Philippine-American War from 1899-1902.

### [Travel Dream Boards & Travel Journals\\*](#)

**Location: APIDA Center**

**Dates: Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 5-7pm**

Traveling is essential for personal growth and cross-cultural understanding. Travel dream boards and travel journals are creative ways to plan and preserve your travel adventures. Make travel dream boards and travel journals with us!

### [Teacher Institute: K-12 Ethnic Studies & Non-Fiction KidLit\\*](#)

**Location: Templo Mayor**

**Dates: Friday, March 6, 2026 from 4:30-7:30pm**

Calling all K-12 pre-teachers and current educators! Learn about applying Ethnic Studies/Asian American Studies as a framework for using non-fiction literature in K-12 classrooms. All participants who attend the entire session will receive lots of free books. Participants will leave with 10-50 books for your classroom library. [RSVP](#) by March 2.

### [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:

- Thursday, May 7, 2026 from 5-9pm: APIDA Excellence Celebration

## Opportunities & Events

### APIDA Student Organizations:

- AB Samahan is accepting applications for the FACN 41 cultural dances. [Sign up](#) today.
- Sikh Student Association is hosting a [Gurdwara Trip](#) on Sun, Feb 22 from 11-2pm in Poway.
- Asian American Journalists Association SDSU and the Society of Professional Journalists are hosting a [Networking and Portfolio Workshop](#) on Mon, Feb 23 in AH 4157.
- Hawai'i Club at SDSU is hosting a [Spam Musubi-Making Workshop](#) on Tues, Feb 24 from 2-3pm at Scripps Cottage.
- Korean American Student Association is hosting their first [Spring General Body Meeting](#) on Tues, Feb 24 from 3:30-4:30pm in Matayuum.
- Japanese Student Association is hosting a [Language Table](#) on Wed, Feb 25 from 3-4pm in the Engineering Quad.
- Asian Pacific Student Alliance is hosting the [Spring MP3](#) (Meet your Potential Mentor/Mentee) on Fri, Feb 27 from 2-4pm.
- International Student Association is hosting a [Bonfire Night](#) on Fri, Feb 27 from 4-7pm at South Mission Beach.

### Community Center Partners:

- SDSU Residential Education Office and Center for Commuter Life are hosting events for Second Year Week from Mon, Feb 23 to Thurs, Feb 26. See the upcoming events on the [Second Year Week website](#).
- Pride Center is hosting [Queer Crafternoon](#) on Mon, Feb 23 from 1-2pm.
- SDSU Imperial Valley Cross Cultural Center is hosting a [Black Panther Movie Night](#) on Mon, Feb 23 at 1:30pm. [Register](#) today.
- Women's Resource Center is hosting a webinar entitled, "Balancing Books and Care: The Student Caregiver Perspective" on Tues, Feb 24 from 2:30-3:30pm. [Register](#) today.
- Black Resource Center and College of Education are hosting a [Pizza Party](#) to celebrate Black History Month on Wed, Feb 25 from 12-1pm. [RSVP](#) today.
- Monarch Unity Resource Center is hosting HELS Spring 2026 Webinars on Thurs, Feb 26 from 5-6pm or 6-7pm. [Register](#) today.

### Campus Partners:

- Associated Students Union Board is hosting "Step Into Wonderland" on Mon, Feb 23 from 6-8pm in the Student Union Courtyard.
- College of Arts and Letters is hosting a [CAL Advance Strategy Lab](#) on Wed, Feb 25 from 11:00-12:30pm in the Commuter Resource Center.
- Office of Graduate Life & Diversity is hosting a workshop entitled, "Team Dynamics That Work: Leadership Skills for Graduate and Professional Life" on Wed, Feb 25 from 11:30-12:30pm. [RSVP](#) today!
- Career Services is hosting the Spring Career and Internship Fair on Thurs, Feb 26 from 10-2pm in Montezuma Hall. [Register](#) today.
- Counseling and Psychological Services is seeking 2026-2027 Peer Educators. [Apply](#) by Fri, Feb 27.
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

### Community Partners:

- Vietnamese American Youth Alliance is hosting the [2026 San Diego Tet Festival](#) from Fri, Feb 20 to Sat, Feb 22 at NTC Park in Liberty Station.
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). The next free webinar is entitled, "Elementary Education" on Tues, Feb 24 from 4-5pm. [Register](#) today!
- Asian Business Association San Diego is hosting a Credit Card Processing & POS Systems workshop on Fri, Feb 27 from 12-1pm on Zoom. [RSVP](#) today!

## Research Opportunities

- **NEW!** Call for presentation proposals for the 2026 California Science Education Conference is now open. [Submit](#) by April 15.
- The SDSU Pride Center and LGBTQ+ Studies Department are calling for research presentation proposals for the 2026 Pride Symposium. [Apply](#) by April 17.
- Call for proposals for the 8th Annual RE:BORDER Conference is now open. [Register](#) by April 17.
- **NEW!** Pacific Arts Movement is now accepting film submissions for the 27th San Diego Asian Film Festival. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research will take place at SDSU in November 2026. Sign for the [interest form](#) today!

## Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** SDSU Housing Conference Services is hiring for Summer 2026! They are looking for a [Group and Program Lead](#), [Schedule and Support Lead](#), [Key and Access Lead](#), and [Summer Conference Desk Assistant](#). [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Disney Entertainment Television is seeking a Hulu Business Affairs and Legal JD Intern for Summer/Fall 2026. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** Walt Disney Imagineering is looking for a WDI Theme Lighting Design Intern for Summer/Fall 2026. [Apply](#) today!
- CNN is seeking News Show Team Interns in NYC for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 22.
- Google is looking for a Research Intern for Summer 2026. [Apply](#) by Feb 27.
- **NEW!** The American Public Works Association is looking for Summer Interns. [Apply](#) by Feb 27.
- The Pride Center is seeking part-time undergraduate Pride Center educators and mentors. [Apply](#) by March 2.
- The Pride Center is seeking a Graduate Student Pride House Lead. [Apply](#) by March 2.
- The Pride Center is seeking a Graduate Student SafeZones House Lead. [Apply](#) by March 2.
- HMC Architects is looking for a Student Intern. [Apply](#) by March 31.

## Scholarships

- The TIAA First-Gen Scholarship offers \$5,000-\$10,000 to first-generation college undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by Feb 26.
- The Dream.US National Scholarship is offering financial support for first-generation immigrant students. [Apply](#) by Feb 28.
- 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.
- The San Diego Foundation's common application for scholarships is open. [Apply](#) by March 4.
- **NEW!** The San Diego Foundation is offering the Rubie Eileen Chapman Elementary Scholarship to current undergraduate Liberal Studies or Child Development majors at SDSU. [Apply](#) by March 4.
- The American Association on Health & Disability is offering \$1,000 to undergraduate students with disabilities. [Apply](#) by March 6.
- The ASML Innovators Scholarship Award offers \$5,000 to undergraduate students enrolled in engineering or science programs. [Apply](#) by March 20.
- **NEW!** The Hawai'i's Daughters Guild of California's Annual Scholarship is offering up to \$2000 to college undergraduate and graduate female students of Pacific Islander ancestry. [Apply](#) by April 15.
- The AAPI Arts & Media Scholarship is offering \$3,500 to five undergraduate students. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- The Empowering Future Female Leaders Scholarship is offering \$5,000 to ten first- and second-year female students pursuing careers in business, economics, or STEM. [Apply](#) by April 20.
- 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.
- The Stanford Chen Internship Grant is offering \$1,500 to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who have secured a summer internship at a news outlet. [Apply](#) by April 30.