

SDSU Office of AANHPISI Affairs & APIDA Center

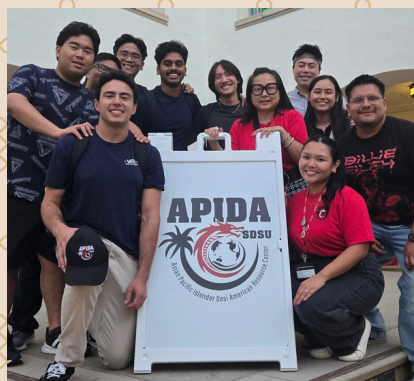


Stay informed! Stay connected!

Check your email! Newsletter #173 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://aanhpsi.sdsu.edu>
Executive Director: Dr. Loh-Hagan at vloh-hagan@sdsu.edu



@sdsuapidacenter

**SDSU APIDA
Resource Center**

SA+CD

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

May 8, 2026



From Dr. Loh-Hagan: Another celebration of excellence!

On Thursday, May 7th, we hosted our 6th APIDA Excellence Celebration and End-of-Year party! Dr. **William Tong** (Provost and Senior Vice President) and **Agnes Wong Nickerson** (Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs & CFO) gave inspirational keynote speeches. **Catherine Nicole Domingo** gave a riveting performance of "The Climb." And of course, we had tons of food and fun including karaoke, photo booth, caricatures, balloon artist, button-making, and more! This year, we collaborated with Asian American Studies and hosted an "Excellence Gallery" - an exhibition of students' final projects from AAS 460 (Fil-Am Experiences) taught by **Kirstin Curtis**.

We announced the December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 graduates, as well as graduate students (see list below). We also announced students who are majoring and minoring in Asian American Studies and Asian Studies. Special shout-out to **Jerald Lipa** who is the Outstanding Graduate for Asian Studies.

Overall, it was such a great time to gather with friends, families, faculty, staff, etc., in order to celebrate our wonderful students. I can't wait to see all the amazing things they will do.



**SDSU APIDA
Excellence Celebration
& End-of-Year Party
May 7, 2026**

December 2025 Graduates

Andrew Gonzales Arevalo
Alyana Teves Barredo
Czarina Angelica Rayos del Sol Casino
Kevin Cifra
Erica Rosanne Del Mundo

August 2026 Graduates

Nat Bui
Kaylee Lace
Patrick Nicholas Simpauco

Graduate Students

Jessie Cruz
Reychel Joy Robles
Sarah Tran

May 2026 Graduates

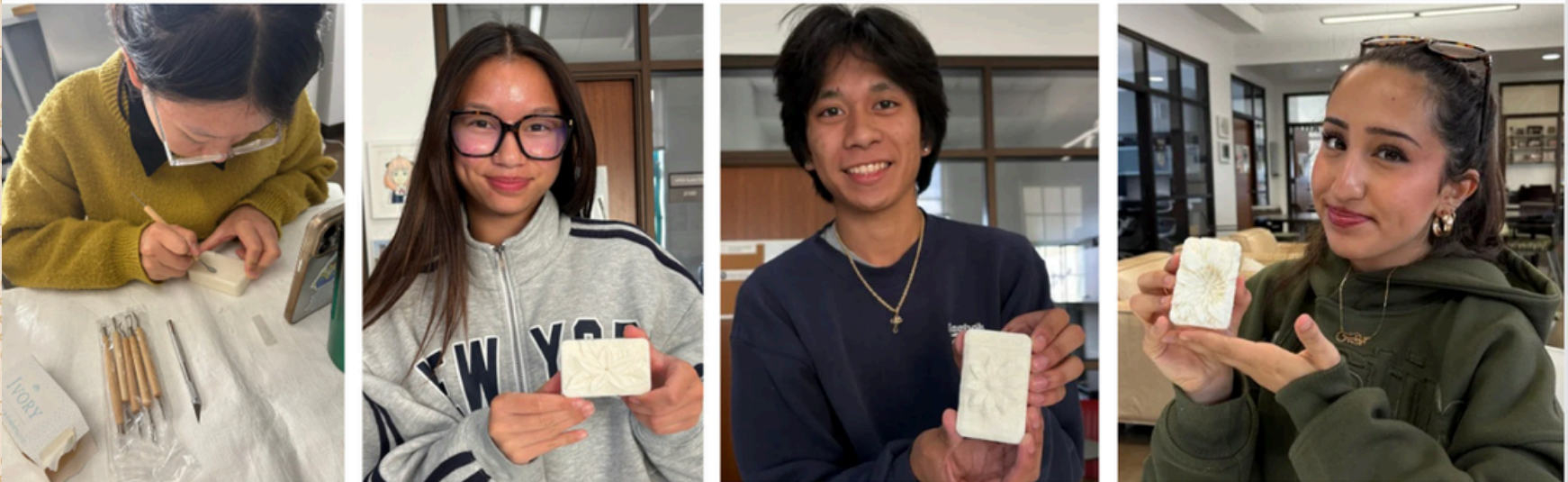
Arabelle Joy Abrajano	Logan Moreno
Anjelika Marin De Castro Adraneda	Chloe Morimoto
Skye Akimseu-Calderbank	Nicklous Ngo
Jonathan Amos	Kristina Nguyen
Audio Alexander Antuna	Bryle Jaron Ong
Aiden Baldoz	Husain Patanwala
Briane Grace Baniqued	Stefano Yamane Peluso
Ellie Brant	Nora Pham
Adam Bui	Emmery Pot
Naomi Arlene Chuang	Karylle Megan Querimit
Nicole Escolano	Riley Shawn Realica
Mark Jefferson Ortega Gobasco	Kylah Rodriguez Roque
Jackson Goff	Kareena Singh
Karen Gutierrez	Lilo Solis
Conor Hasenfang	Richard Tamoria
Jazmine Ibarra	Ryan Tomita
Krissa Hilot Jackson	Daniel Tran
Leilani Javier	Tammy Tran
Ayiana Lin Johnson	Vy Quach Tran
Mike Khuu	Jessica Tuey
Rebecca Lee	Trisha Vann
Jerald Ryan Silan Lipa	Kristie Huynh Wong
Emily Ly	Fatima Yousuf
Kimberly Reanne de Leon Manuyag	
Jhadee Lynn Mendoza	
Jose Rizal Mills	
Teddy Francis Favor Morando	
Shaila Kristine Yvette Pante Delos Reyes	

APIDA Center Highlights: News to Know!



APIDA Center celebrates Lei Day!

On Friday, May 1st, we learned about the history of Lei Day. We learned about the importance of learning, preserving, and celebrating Native Hawaiian lei-making practices. Then, we made ribbon lei for loved ones and APIDA graduates.



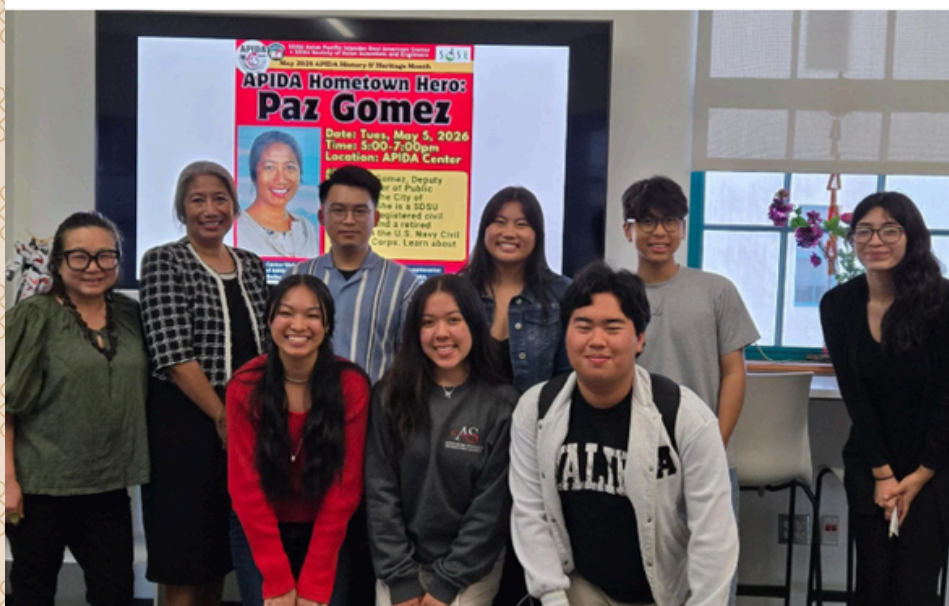
APIDA Center hosts Thai Soap Carving!

On Monday, May 4th, we learned about Thai Soap carving. We learned how the craft originated with the practice of fruit carving as temple offerings in Buddhism. We learned about the rise of soap carving after the Siamese Revolution of 1932 and how the craft is being preserved today. Then, we made our own soap carving.



APIDA Center celebrates Japanese Children's Day!

On Tuesday, May 5th, we learned about the history and significance of Japanese Children's Day, or Kodomo no Hi. Japanese Children's Day is a day for families to wish for the healthy growth and happiness of their kids and to ward off illness and bad luck. We also learned about the history and purpose of koinobori (carp streamer) and made our own.



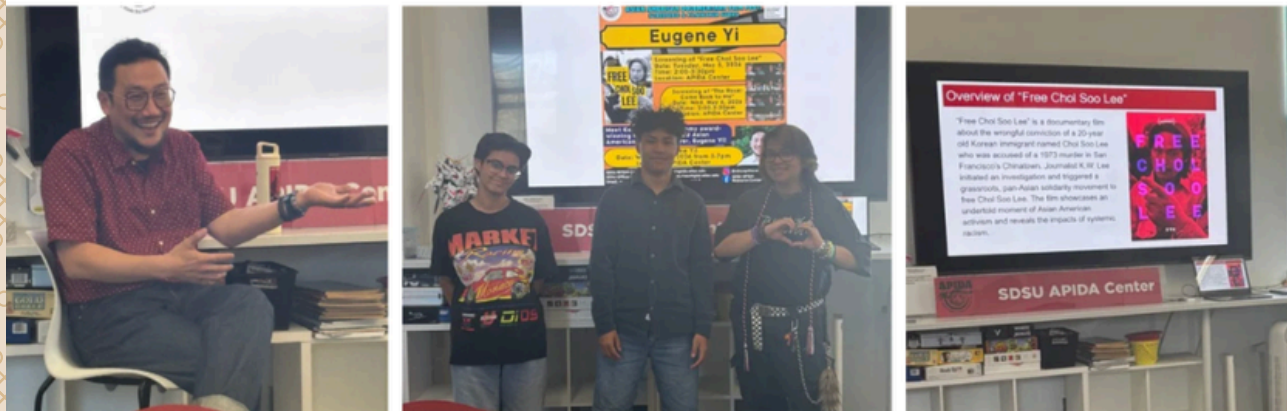
APIDA Center meets Paz Gomez!

On Tuesday, May 5th, we revived our "Hometown Heroes" program and hosted SDSU alum, Paz Gomez, who is the Deputy City Manager of Public Works for Carlsbad and a former Captain in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps. Gomez shared advice and tips to facilitate our students' career development.



APIDA Center hosts an ACSO Ice Cream Social!

On Wednesday, May 6th, we hosted an ice cream social with the APIDA Council of Student Organization (ACSO). We celebrated the work and dedication of student leaders to support and amplify the APIDA community on campus. Students engaged in community-building and enjoyed a sweet treat before the start of finals!



APIDA Center meets Eugene Yi!

On Wednesday, May 6th, we featured **Eugene Yi**, an Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker and Asian American Studies lecturer at SDSU. Previously, we had screened "Free Chol Soo Lee" (2022) and "The Rose: Come Back to Me" (2025). (Julie Ha is the co-director of "Free Chol Soo Lee.") Yi shared his journey as an Asian American filmmaker. He also talked about the impacts of storytelling on individuals and communities, especially those who have been historically marginalized. (Many thanks to Student Success Fee for supporting our filmmaker series.)

Upcoming APIDA Center Events

Field Trip to FanimeCon 2026

Location: San Jose, CA

Date: Friday, May 22, 2026 to Monday, May 25, 2026

Attend FanimeCon, Northern California's largest anime convention. Enjoy video programming, cosplay, music, games, tournaments, panels, and more! We will also visit some APIDA historical sites in San Jose. **RSVP by 12pm on May 9, 2026!**

Kalamkari*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Monday, May 11, 2026 from 5-7pm

Learn more about the historical and cultural significance of Kalamkari, an ancient Indian style of hand-painting or block-printing on cotton textiles. Make Kalamkari-inspired tote bags!

Media Coverage & The 1992 L.A. Uprising*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 3-4pm

Learn about the history of the 1992 L.A. Uprising and examine the role of media in escalating Black-Asian conflict and in perpetuating racial stereotypes.

Southeast Asian American RPG*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 from 5-7pm

Be a monk, monster, or more! We are hosting a Southeast Asian American-themed Role-Playing Game.

Militarization of the Philippines: Subic Bay*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 5-7pm

Learn about the significance and impacts of the Subic Bay Naval Base, its role in U.S. militarization, and its current revival.

Tool of Dehumanization: Human Zoos*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 5-7pm

Human zoos in the early 20th century displayed indigenous people from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Learn more about the history of human zoos and their role in the origins of systemic racism.

The Palau Pledge & Sustainable Crafting*

Location: APIDA Center

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 5-7pm

The Palau Pledge is a mandatory eco-initiative visitors must sign to protect Palau's environment and culture for future generations. Learn more about it and then make sustainable crafts with us!

Opportunities & Events

APIDA Student Organizations:

- Korean American Student Association is accepting applications for the 2026-2027 Executive Board. [Apply](#) by Tues, May 12!

Community Center Partners:

- SDSU Community Centers will have modified hours during Summer 2026. Please check their Instagram for more information.

Campus Partners:

- SDSU University Library is hosting a "Study Break with Luna" on Mon, May 11 from 12-1pm at the Research Services Area (Dome 1st floor).
- International Student Center is hosting an Optional Practical Training OPT virtual information session for F-1 international students on Thurs, May 14 from 10:30-11:30am on [Zoom](#).
- Struggling with basic needs? Need resources? Connect with the [Economic Crisis Resource Team](#).

Community Partners:

- Leadership, Education, Activism, and Dialogue (LEAD) Filipino is hosting a San Diego Community Kickoff on Sat, May 9 from 1-4pm at Breen Neighborhood Park. [RSVP](#) today!
- The Asian American Education Project offers free APIDA resources on their [website](#) and [Instagram](#). The next free webinar is entitled, "Amplify AAPI in May" on Thurs, May 14 at 7am and another entitled, "Asian Americans & the Fight for Education: Featuring Author Marie Chan" on Thurs, May 14 at 4pm. [Register](#) today!
- Japanese Friendship Garden is hosting a workshop entitled, "Haiku with the Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum" on Wed, May 13 from 2-3pm. [RSVP](#) today!

Research Opportunities

- The Division of Research, Innovations, & System Information of the California Department of Transportation is calling for submissions for 2026-2027. [Apply](#) by May 14.
- **NEW!** Black Lawrence Press is calling for submissions from Asian American and Pacific Islander Adoptee Poets for future publication. [Submit](#) by June 1.
- **NEW!** The San Diego International Film Festival is accepting film submissions focused on the theme "Celebrating the Power of Film." [Submit](#) by July 5.
- The Restore America's Estuaries is calling for poster presentation proposals for the 2026 RAE Coastal and Estuarine Summit. [Apply](#) by July 13.

Jobs & Paid Internships

- **NEW!** Dudek is looking for a Stormwater Civil Engineering Intern. [Apply](#) today!
- **NEW!** The SDSU Office of Educational Opportunity Program, Outreach, and Success is hiring Transfer Bridge Peer Mentors. [Apply](#) by May 15.
- **NEW!** The Otay Water District is looking for Summer interns. [Apply](#) by May 15.
- Department of Asian American Studies is hiring two students or recent grads for a paid summer internship to help work on mobile apps. Duties includes completing feature builds, connecting AWS backend services, handling basic security and testing, and publishing to the Google Play Store. Mobile development experience in React Native, Flutter, or native Android preferred. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so early submissions are encouraged. [Apply](#) today.

Scholarships

- Dr. Gabriel and Christine Chiu "Review It" Scholarship offers \$1,000 to college students in any major. [Apply](#) by May 15.
- **NEW!** The Kindness in Action Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to a first-generation undergraduate student of Indian descent. [Apply](#) by May 17.
- The Minerva Scholarship offers \$3,000 to eligible California resident college students who identify as female. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- Asian American Architects/Engineers Association is offering scholarships to current students pursuing careers in architecture, engineering, or construction. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- Lily Pabilona Emerging Entrepreneur Scholarship is offering up to \$5,000 to full-time college students in all majors. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- Against the Grain Artistic Scholarship is offering \$1,000 to Asian American college students majoring in performing, visual arts, journalism and/or mass communications. [Apply](#) by May 31.
- The Korean American Scholarship Foundation is offering support for college undergraduate and graduate students of Korean descent. [Apply](#) by June 30!
- Hyundai Women in STEM Scholarship is offering \$10,000 to five college undergraduates who identify as female and wish to pursue a STEM-related field. [Apply](#) by June 30.
- **NEW!** The Jimmy Chong Scholarship is offering \$10,000 to a student from an underrepresented community who got accepted into law school. [Apply](#) by July 9.
- **NEW!** The Neetu Watamull Scholarship is offering \$2,500 to five undergraduate or graduate students of Indian origin. [Apply](#) by July 24.
- Aztec Scholarships are now open! [Apply](#) today. Final deadline is Sept 4.