

The State of Washington

COMMISSION ON ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

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Improving the lives of Asian Pacific Americans

Executive Director's Report

January 10, 2009
Asian Counseling Referral Service Center (ACRS)
3639 Martin Luther king Jr. Way S
Seattle, WA. 98052

- 1. CAPAA's Financial Report and presentation of the CAPAA 2009-2011 Biennium –Budget has just been given by Michelle Salinas of the Small Agency Client Services (SACS).
- 2. EDUCATION:

A.) ETHNIC COMMISSIONS' STUDY OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP:

The final reports were submitted on December 29, 2008, to the Governor's office, P.20 Council, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, State Board of Education, House

Education Committee, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Basic Education Finance Task Force, Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee, Senate Majority Leader, Senator Lisa Brown, and Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos. They were submitted in bound copies and through electronic file.

Shirley Hune, Ph.D., Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, College of Education, University of Washington, and David Takeuchi, Ph.D. School of Social Work and Department of Sociology, University of Washington, did an outstanding job on the studies.

Meetings scheduled:

January 7, 2009 – Meeting with researchers, ethnic Commissions Directors, Chris Alejano from Governor Gregoire's Executive Policy Office and stakeholders, at the University of Washington. The topics for discussion are:

- Provide briefs of all the reports by lead researchers.
- How do we move forward given the study findings and existing budget constraints.
- How do we maximize limited presentation time before committees/broader stakeholder groups.

January 15, 2009 – Presentation to the State Board of Education

January 19, 2009- Presentation to the House Education Committee

The idea is to allow the researchers to present their reports, but to be able to come up with some commonalities with the help of the ethnic Commissions for policy recommendations to the State Legislature and the Governor's office. There will be more presentations on the study especially in the upcoming legislative session. The researchers will come up with their executive summaries on their reports. It is our hope that this work in closing the Achievement gap for our students will continue and this is just the beginning of that big stride! This is a big accomplishment for CAPAA and we must be on course with the other Commissions and relevant agencies to make this successful!

B.) Meet and Greet with Randy Dorn, the new Superintendent of Public Instruction-

He shared with us his vision of replacing WASL with other diagnostic measures. I brought up our challenge that Asian Americans and Pacific Islander student data are lumped into one which makes the needs of our disadvantaged and underserved students invisible, the disadvantages of the "model minority myth" for our Asian American community. We also brought up the need for teacher preparation and training, accountability of school districts and access to OSPI data. There should be another meeting with him and our CAPAA board.

3. GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION OF 2010 CENSUS-

This is scheduled on January 22, 2009 at 1:30 PM. A team consisting of staff from the Office of Financial Management, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, and the Washington State Ethnic Commissions Directors have been meeting with the local Census Bureau officials to identify ways the state can help promote a complete and accurate count with efficient, no cost, or low-cost activities.

I personally advocated for the Governor's proclamation of support for Census 2010. Governor Gregoire has asked state agencies to designate a senior staff member to be available to work with the Census Bureau and our state government team starting in early 2009 on intermittent activities such as:

• Public information efforts to encourage cooperation with the census count.

- Use of existing agency communication channels to get the word out about the importance of the census.
- Assistance from local state government offices in getting information to "hard to count" populations in the state.

Since I am a member of the Race Ethnicity Advisory Committee for Asian population with the Census Bureau, here are some quick facts:

- The Census Bureau will recruit 3.8 million applicants and hire up to 1.4 million temporary Census workers in 1009 and 2010.
- The toll-free census jobs line 1-866-861-2010- will connect callers directly to their local Census jobs.
- Hiring for the first major operation will start in 2009 with more than eighty five percent of all hiring occurring in spring 2010.
- Census recruiting methods will respond to the interests and needs of a more diverse and older labor force in 2010.
- 4. JOINT ETHNIC LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION on February 3rd All invitations have been sent out. Food donations have been solicited from Four Seas, Wajimaya and KWA through Lua Pritchard.

Entertainment will be from the PAYO group – Pilipino American Youth Organization from Pierce County, and tentatively the Chinese Drill Team.

5. ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE DAY on February 5th- Governor Gregoire will meet with the APIC leadership at 9:30 AM.

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