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Executive Director



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

November 15, 2008

Redmond Senior Services Center

8703 - 160th Ave. NE

Redmond, WA. 98052

1. **CAPAA's Financial Report** – In the September 2008 financial reports by SACS, the Commission ended the first quarter of the fiscal year with a savings of \$11,633. In the Administration funding, CAPAA continues to incur less than expected expenditures in all areas except for Benefits. The Achievement Gap funding is recording a savings because there are no expenditures outside the contract with the University of Washington. Under travel of the Achievement gap category, the agency has not yet spent any portion of the allotment for travel for town hall meetings. This is leading to the savings of \$1,830.

CAPAA received a check from the Office of Financial Management - Employment Security Department for the amount of \$505.44 as overpayment from the unemployment benefits for Alan Vu, CAPAA's former executive assistant.

The Governor is currently requesting a \$4,000 budget reduction or 1.6% reduction For CAPAA. Some areas identified for consideration for the reduction are equipment and purchased services. We don't know yet when the reduction will be effective.

2. EDUCATION:

A.) Secondary Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (I-BEST)

Wanted to share with you that as a result of the 2008 Legislative Session, ESHB 2687, \$250,000 of the general fund-state appropriation for fiscal year 2009 is provided solely for grants to five skills centers to develop and plan for implementation of integrated English language development/career skills programs. The programs would pair English language development teachers with career/technical education instructors in the classroom to create a seamless transition for English language learners from high school to the community and technical college programs for students choosing that pathway.

Agency Overview

The CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

Objective:

The pilot project is to integrate career and technical instruction, core academic and basic skills, and English as a second language (ESL), for secondary school students. The objective is to determine whether and how a successful community and technical college instructional, model can be adapted and implemented at a secondary school level.

Goal:

To enable and motivate secondary students who are struggling with language and academic skills to earn a high school diploma and be prepared for workforce entry or further education and training in a career and technical field. Under the pilot project, academic, career and technical, and English as a second language teachers shall provide instruction through team and co-teaching. Course content shall be integrated across the three domains of career and technical, academic and language.

Student Eligibility Criteria:

- Students who have continuously been enrolled in the state transitional bilingual instructional program (TBIP) since the 2005-06 school year.
- Students participating in the migrant education program.

This is just for your information as I have been asked to make presentations about IBEST in more than three community organizations who are concerned for students having challenges in receiving a high school diploma. Parents are particularly interested to know about IBEST.

B.) ETHNIC COMMISSIONS' STUDY OF THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP UPDATE:

I have attached the Monthly Status Report to CAPAA on October 31, 2008, as submitted by Dr. Shirley Hune and Dr. David Takeuchi, University of Washington. Their final report is due on December 30, 2008 to the governor, the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, the P-20 council, the basic education finance task force, and the education committees of the legislature.

C.) Upcoming meeting with the new Superintendent of Public Instruction

I have made some preliminary calls to meet the new superintendent Mr. Randy Dorn,
in the early part of December.

3. JOINT ETHNIC COMMISSIONS LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION:

It is scheduled on February 5, 2009 at the Columbia room at 5:30pm - 8:00 pm. CAPAA will be the host and we will be arranging for the logistics of this reception in collaboration with the Commissions on Hispanic Affairs, African American Affairs and the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs. We will invite Governor Gregoire to be the keynote speaker. I would like to encourage the formation of an adhoc committee for this reception.

4. 2009 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

We should include as one of CAPAA's priorities under the Children & Family Services the following:

A.) Support of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Pathway:

- ✧ The primary goal of the Limited English Proficient (LEP) Pathway is to promote economic self-sufficiency for refugees and immigrants through job training, job search, English as a Second Language (ESL), work supports, and social services.
- ✧ As of the year 2008, Washington State ranked 7th in the nation in the number of refugees admitted. In addition, our state ranks 2nd in the country in secondary migration.
- ✧ Most of the immigrants and refugees are on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- ✧ New refugees and immigrants have more barriers to employment; some are illiterate in their own languages. 41% of those served by the program are in the beginning literacy level, another 26% are in the beginning ESL level.
- ✧ The program has demonstrated record of success: LEP clients are placed in jobs at a rate equal to that of regular TANF clients, and LEP clients have a greater monthly income and work more hours than TANF clients.

B.) Support of Naturalization Services:

- ✧ In 1996, federal welfare reform made thousands of legal immigrants and refugees ineligible for federal benefits- food stamps, SSI and Medicaid- until they became citizens.
- ✧ In response, Washington State implemented a Naturalization Program to help immigrants and refugees who receive public assistance become citizens, thus making them eligible for federal benefits and not reliant on state programs such as General Assistance and state food assistance.
- ✧ Many refugees and immigrants served by the Naturalization Program are elderly or disabled. Most speak little or no English.
- ✧ Effective October 1, 2008, a revised and more difficult naturalization test will be implemented.
- ✧ Cost of the application fee has been increased from \$350 to \$595 within the last year. Currently, the program is not serving all the immigrants and refugees on public assistance who need these services.

C.) Support the Washington New Americans Policy:

- ✧ Washington State ranks 10th in the nation in the number of foreign born residents and 7th in the number of refugees. Our immigrant and refugee population is growing rapidly.

- ✧ Integration of immigrants and refugees has been identified as one of the most effective economic development strategies for states, but there is no current federal or Washington state policy on integration.
- ✧ There are 135,000 legal permanent residents in Washington who are eligible to become citizens but face many barriers in the process.
- ✧ In 2008, One America (formerly Hate Free Zone of Washington) proposed the New Americans policy for a Statewide Policy Council to provide strategic recommendations for immigrant policy in areas such as: citizenship, English acquisition, education and workforce development.
- ✧ In response to the proposal, the Governor established the New Americans Statewide Policy Council, but funding has been frozen.

D.) Under Health Care:

Support Medical Interpreter Services:

- ✧ Approximately 400,000 immigrants with limited English proficiency go to hospitals and medical providers and need interpreters to communicate with their providers.
- ✧ Medicaid pays for interpreter services, but Basic Health and private insurance do not.
- ✧ The lack of interpreter service can compromise doctor's ability to make accurate diagnoses; makes it difficult for patients to understand medical instructions for follow-up care and prescription drug use; and may lead to costly malpractice lawsuits.

OUTREACH TO 24 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS TO READ THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE AND PROCLAMATIONS IN THEIR EVENTS IN OCTOBER.

BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FORMER CAPAA CHAIR, AND COMMISSIONER TONY LEE, FOR HIS MOST VALUABLE AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO CAPAA!

- His term expired in June 2008.