

THE RISE OF ASIAN AMERICAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Read the following article, pausing to summarize your learning after each section.

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) populations have been doubling in number since 1960. In 2050, AAPI populations are expected to reach nearly 40-million people. Just as this population is growing, college enrollment for this group has increased by 36% since 2000.

AAPI populations encompass a broad group of people, representing 48 ethnicities and more than 300 languages. AAPI ethnic groups include Indian, Chinese, Pakistani, Korean, Thai, Japanese, Filipino, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Guamanian, Native Hawaiian, Tongan, and Samoan populations, among others. These diverse ethnic groups span every part of the socioeconomic ladder, ranging from disadvantaged to affluent.

The Rise of AANAPISIs

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Institutions, or AANAPISIs, are institutions supporting universities with 10% or more of AAPI students. AANAPISIs were authorized in 2007 by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. These institutions joined Historically Black Colleges (HBCs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Tribal College Universities (TCUs) on the list of Minority Serving-Institutions (MSIs).

Asian American and Pacific Islander students are often excluded from the considerations of students of color due to the “model minority” myth, or the notion that AAPI communities are a naturally successful group, facing no ethnicity-related prejudice or barriers. In reality, AAPI students reflect a diverse population with unique educational needs and challenges.

Some of these unique challenges include parental education levels, language barriers, immigration issues, lack of family support, and unfavorable social climates at their institutions. Additionally, 60% of AAPI students serve as breadwinners and cultural ambassadors to their families while still in school. Each of these factors increase physical, emotional, financial, and mental strain on students. AANAPISIs are necessary because they provide committed support for AAPI students.



Stop and Jot your thoughts on the reading so far:

The Impact of AANAPISIs

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) make up eight percent of colleges and universities, but in 2016, they enrolled 19% of AAPI students.

AANAPISIs represent many types of institutions, including community colleges, regional campuses, and state flagship institutions. These institutions provide critical support to the AAPI population, a population that is growing rapidly. AANAPISIs serve AAPI populations in California, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Texas, Washington, and Guam.

AANAPISIs empower schools by providing students with support services like summer bridge programs between two-year and four-year colleges, strengthened student advising, academic support, professional developments for faculty, first-year programs, endowment funds, and more. AANAPISI funds allow institutions to research challenges AAPI communities face to generate more support for this population.

AANAPISIs work in tandem with other MSIs, providing for well-rounded and diverse systems of support for minority populations. Many AANAPSI institutions also benefit from HSI funding. In one instance, South Seattle College created the Strengthen Pathways for AAPI Student to Become Teachers program by partnering with HSI Heritage University, promoting a path forward for AAPI students while also adding diversity to Heritage University.



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The Future of AANAPISIs

AANAPISIs have increased from 116 institutions in 2009 to 133 in 2016. That said, only 25 AANAPISIs received funding, leaving many eligible institutions without funds. There is evidence to suggest that funding disbursement for AANAPISIs will grow; for example, in 2015 as many as 21 institutions received grants, compared to 25 institutions in 2016.

There are many advocates working to support the AAPI population by improving AANAPISIs. Advocates aim to raise awareness of the challenges that AAPI populations encounter, to debunk the idea of the “model minority,” and to fund research demonstrating the diverse needs and challenges that this population faces. AANAPISIs are trying to connect with other MSIs, especially HSIs, to support more minorities facing similar challenges. Advocates intend to recruit AAPI populations to historically underrepresented fields of study, creating space for new and much-needed voices in all areas, especially including education and law.

AANAPISI funding reflects a serious federal commitment to supporting AAPI students, as well as improving AAPI enrollment, retention, and graduation rates. Advocates look to promote that work further.



Stop and Jot your thoughts on the reading so far:

Sources

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