

April 17, 2023

Dear LMC Faculty, Classified Professionals, and Managers,

As we approach the month of May, I am writing to you to highlight the significance of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Heritage Month and the importance of addressing issues of inequity at Los Medanos College.

APIDA Heritage Month provides an opportunity for our college community to come together and celebrate the rich cultural heritage and achievements of APIDA communities. It is a time to honor the diverse perspectives, experiences, and histories of APIDA individuals, and to acknowledge their valuable contributions to our campus and society.

However, recognition alone is not enough. As an educational institution, we must also actively address the issues of inequity that APIDA students and employees may face on our campus. APIDA students, like many historically marginalized groups, may experience discrimination, bias, and systemic barriers that can impact their access to educational opportunities and success in college. It is our responsibility to create an inclusive and equitable learning and working environment where all members of our LMC community have equal opportunities to thrive.

And to that end, across our district, Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans have joined in community to support one another and our students. Contra Costa Community College District (4CD) is a global community of students, classified professionals, faculty, and managers. We have a growing number of students coming from Central, South, and West Asia, including: Türkiye, Syria, Afghanistan, Iran, Nepal, Yemen, India, and more. The 4CD APIDA Coalition aims to build more awareness about the unique experiences and histories of those coming from these areas. Knowledge empowers us all to be better educators, stronger providers, and supportive leaders for our students and community.

The APIDA Coalition has planned a number of important heritage events and learning opportunities for our district and college community:

- **April 18, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Pacifika + Oceania Spring Mixer**
 - 4CD “Watch Party” in SU-231 or via Zoom
- **April 19, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Filipino Studies: Histories, Cultures & Identities**
 - 4CD “Watch Party” in SU-108, SU-109, or via Zoom
 - Featuring Dr. Wayland and Dr. Desiree Quintero from Leeward Community College, University of Hawaii System
- **April 25, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Asian Americans Rise Up! Know Your Roots!**
 - 4CD “Watch Party” in SU-106, SU-108, or via Zoom
 - Featuring Dr. Roger Chung from Peralta College
 - With special guest and LMC alum, Louis Phoenix and Band

- **May 4, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Inaugural 4CD APIDA Graduation**
 - At Contra Costa College in the Knox Theater
 - Interim Chancellor Mehdizadeh will be a keynote speaker for the Graduation, and a reception will follow the ceremony.
 - This year’s theme is “Many Lands – One Community,” and all participating graduates will receive a special APIDA sash to wear in other commencement ceremonies.
 - Participation in the APIDA Graduation is open to anyone at CCC, DVC, or LMC, and especially graduates of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, including but not limited to:
 - Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan);
 - East Asia (China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Macau, Mongolia, Taiwan);
 - Pacifica/Oceania Pacific Islands (countries and islands in Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, including Native Hawaiian);
 - South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tibet);
 - Southeast Asia (Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam);
 - Western Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Türkiye, UAE, Yemen)

Thank you for your commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity. I urge all members of our college community to actively promote and participate in the opportunities our APIDA colleagues have planned. We are grateful for their efforts.

Sincerely,



Pamela Ralston, Ph.D.
Interim President