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[Date]

The Honorable [name of Congressman/Senator]  
United States House of Representatives/Senate  
[address of Member's office]

Dear Congressman/Senator [last name]:

I am writing on behalf of Mt. San Antonio College's (Mt. SAC) and our Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) grant program – the Arise Program. ~~As you know,~~ AANAPISIs are the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) newest Minority Serving Institution (MSI) created in 2007, when the College Cost Reduction Act was signed into law. Similar to other MSIs (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, etc.), AANAPISIs are charged with enhancing the educational experiences of underserved and underrepresented low-income Asian Americans and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students.

The AANAPISI grant has enabled Mt. SAC to develop much needed support services and academic interventions to increase the success rates of under-served Asian American and Pacific Islander American (AAPIA) students attending the college. Our AAPIA students comprise over 20% of the student enrollment at Mt. SAC and have a variety of educational needs that the grant program addresses. These needs range from support for low income and first generation college students, English language acquisition, educational planning, counseling and academic support services.

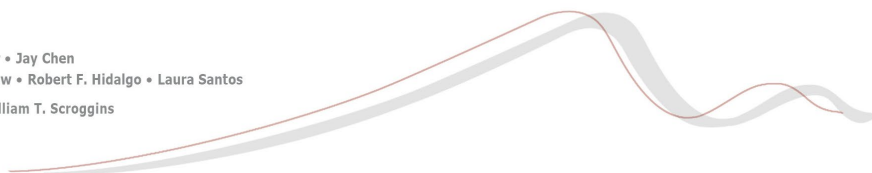
In order to become an AANAPISI, colleges and universities must first maintain a 10% AAPI undergraduate student enrollment and have a high percentage of low-income students. Coming up in early 2021, the AANAPISI Part F grant (\$4.7 million allocation) is expected to be announced and opened to the 160 eligible institutions through a competitive application submission process. As part of the AANAPISI collective, we are requesting your support in four specific areas pertaining to the grant that deserve your immediate attention:

- **Ensure future applications are open 90 days, with the deadline in April of 2021**
  - An April deadline syncs with the regular academic calendar of colleges and universities
  - We were provided less than 30 days for the last application, which reduces the quality of each application, prior applications were closer to the 90-day window
- **Announce and post the future AANAPISI grant announcement at a consistent and regular time, preferably in February**
  - This timeframe will ensure colleges and universities to anticipate and prepare for future AANAPISI applications
  - Past applications were announced at unpredictable times of the year and resulted in several institutions being unable to apply
- **Be notified of AANAPISI awards by July**
  - By announcing awards by July, colleges and universities can be planning their fiscal year budgets and prepare for the start of the academic term in August

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- **Increase annual AANAPISI appropriations to \$30 million (see attached table - FY2020 Appropriations for Minority-Serving Institutions)**

—AANAPISIs have consistently received the lowest amount of funding per Capita, compared to other MSIs, yet maintain one of the highest numbers of eligible institutions. As a matter of equity, increasing the overall appropriations ensures that more institutions will be able to serve low-income AAPI students.

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**Mt. SAC AANAPISI SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS**

Mt. SAC is one of 35 institutions that have been awarded AANAPISI funds. We became an AANAPISI in 2011 and have received \$3.75M over the past 10 years. To date we have developed and implemented several academic and co-curricular initiatives to support our AAPI students at Mt. SAC. This includes academic counseling and educational advisement, tutoring, student development programming (personal and leadership), a Digital Stories project, educational fieldtrips to significant places for the AAPI community (e.g., Manzanar Japanese Internment Camp and Delano, ground zero for the farmworker's movement and Filipino labor strike leaders referred to as the "manongs"), fale fonos (a Samoan term for house meetings) to address relevant community topics such as anti-Asian racism and civic engagement (e.g., 2020 Census and voting), talking circles for Southeast Asians, Filipinx, Pacific Islander women, and male athletes (especially Pacific Islander males) to create space for conversations around identity, specific needs, and for support. We have also implemented annual programming to recognize and celebrate Filipino-American History Month (October) and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May). Most recently during this pandemic, we have fully transitioned to virtual programming and established a Canvas hub (a tool intended for the classroom), which enables constant, consistent and accessible communication between staff and over 500 students currently in the program. Please review our Arise Program Fact Sheet, which highlights the demographics of our students and outcomes data.

AANAPISI programs, like ours, have been well documented to enhance student access, persistence, and graduation, while developing a new generation of leaders who are committed to community service and civic engagement. We invite you to virtually visit campus and see firsthand how we are enhancing the educational experiences of AAPI students at Mt. SAC and directly contributing to their academic success. We realize that Congressional schedules are complex and dynamic, and we welcome the opportunity to simply meet with you to discuss critical issues facing AANAPISIs this year.

Colleges and universities are natural bridges to the community, and our AANAPISI program supports the greater East San Gabriel Valley and neighboring regions, as well as our campus community during these unprecedented times. Given the blatant racism and acts of discrimination perpetuated against AAPIs during the COVID-19 pandemic, our AANAPISI program, and AANAPISIs in general, are diligently working to address these issues and provide support for our local and national AAPI communities.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached by email at [wscroggins@mtsac.edu](mailto:wscroggins@mtsac.edu). ~~You may also follow up with our Vice President, Student Services, Audrey Yamagata-Noji at [ayamgata-noji@mtsac.edu](mailto:ayamgata-noji@mtsac.edu).~~

~~{email} or by telephone at {telephone}.~~ Thank you in advance for your consideration and your support. ~~and we hope to meet with you in the near future.~~ We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your staff for a fuller briefing of the AANAPISI program.

Sincerely,

Dr. William B. Scroggins  
President/CEO

<b>FY2020 Appropriations for Minority-Serving Institutions</b>					
<b>Program</b>	<b>Discretionary Funding (Part A)</b>	<b>Mandatory Funding (Part F)</b>	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>Number of Currently Eligible Institutions</b>	<b>Funding per Capita</b>
Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs)	\$4,444,000	\$4,705,000	\$9,149,000	160	\$57,181
Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Institutions (ANNHs)	\$18,320,000	\$14,115,000	\$32,435,000	16	\$2,027,188
Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)	\$36,633,000	\$28,230,000	\$64,863,000	25	\$2,594,520
Native American-Serving, Nontribal Institutions (NASNTIs)	\$4,444,000	\$4,705,000	\$9,149,000	29	\$315,483
Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)	\$324,792,000	\$79,985,000	\$404,777,000	96	\$4,216,427
Historically Black Graduate Institutions (HBGIs)	\$83,995,000	N/A	\$83,995,000	24	\$3,499,792
HBCU Masters Program	\$9,956,000	N/A	\$9,956,000	18	\$553,111
Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs)	\$13,197,000	\$14,115,000	\$27,312,000	80	\$341,400
Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs)	\$143,081,000	N/A	\$143,081,000	419	\$341,482
HSI Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) and Articulation	N/A	\$94,100,000	\$94,100,000	446	\$210,987
Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA)	12,838,000	N/A	\$12,838,000	183	\$70,153
Source: U.S. Department of Education FY2020 Congressional Action Budget					