

**DAVID DOUGLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROCLAMATION:
PROCLAIMING THE MONTH-LONG CELEBRATION OF
ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
IN MAY**

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage in the United States was celebrated beginning in 1978 and was made into a month-long event in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of residents from Asia, India and the Pacific Islands; and

WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians, Chinese, and Japanese were the first to migrate to the Pacific Northwest and were known for handling canoes and transporting goods, construction, and railroad expansion; and

WHEREAS, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island)¹; and

WHEREAS, during Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, we acknowledge Asians and Pacific Islanders have lived and worked in Oregon for more than 200 years, contributing in to Oregon's and the United States' economy, culture, education, politics, arts, literature, science and technological developments² despite institutional and systemic injustices designed to prevent and limit these achievements and contributions³; and

WHEREAS, during AAPI Heritage Month we acknowledge the additional determination, hard work, and perseverance, AAPI must put forth to be heard and seen and that these additional efforts are a result of inequitable institutional and systemic injustices; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions and leadership, the role of AAPI in U.S. history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history⁴; and

¹ <https://asianpacificheritage.gov/about/>

² http://www.apano.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AAAJ_Western_Dem_2015.pdf

³

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1090&context=socwork_fac

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2017/04/19/524571669/model-minority-myth-again-used-as-a-racial-wedge-between-asians-and-blacks>

WHEREAS, we cannot deny the unique challenges and complicated, sometimes violent histories of peoples, nations, and empires across Asia and the Pacific- but we can commit to working together to strengthen our community for the future;

WHEREAS, racially motivated discrimination and harassment is at a high with a national and local spike in hate crimes against the AAPI community, especially targeting its Muslim, South Asian, and Southeast Asian members; and

WHEREAS, Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing communities in Oregon and Multnomah County⁵. This migration has been both voluntary and forced due to war and environmental degradation in their native countries; and

WHEREAS, 82.5% of Asian students in the 2017-2018 four-year cohort graduated, 90% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students graduated, and 82.9% of Asian Pacific Islander students graduated, a higher percentage than the all student cohort average percentage of 77.26; and

WHEREAS, 15.3 percent of enrolled students are Asian and 2.1 percent are Pacific Islander, and these populations increased 2.5 percentage points and 1 percent respectively over the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the Pacific Islander Student Club organizes and promotes student success for Pacific Islander students; and

WHEREAS, 4.3 percent of the David Douglas School District workforce has self-identified as API and the percentage has increased 36.95 percentage points over the past 7 years; and

WHEREAS, 5.3 percent of district leadership (supervisors, managers, principals) has self-identified as API; and

WHEREAS, 5.2 percent of union leadership has self-identified as API; and

WHEREAS, 30 percent (9/30) of the ASB student leadership has identified as API; and

WHEREAS, the David Douglas School District is committed to and advocates for equal educational, professional, and social opportunities for API students, and;

WHEREAS, the David Douglas School District Strategic Hiring Plan outlines a goal to increase staff of color by 10% by 2020 so that district staff more accurately reflect the student population and district leadership has prioritized representation of the David Douglas district community in leadership positions, both employee and board; and

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https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1090&context=socwork_fac

WHEREAS, the David Douglas School District has an adopted Educational Equity⁶ policy and an Equal Educational Opportunity policy⁷ that states our commitment to closing the achievement gap for AAPI students and creating an educational environment where all students can benefit equally from the educational programs offered; and

WHEREAS, the District is working towards eliminating the racial predictability and disproportionality on all aspects of education and has recently established a Racial Equity Committee⁸; and

WHEREAS, during AAPI Heritage Month, we focus on the crucial role of education in the history of API Americans; and

WHEREAS, the District collaborates and partners with community-based organizations like IRCO Asian Family Center and Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon to form strong relationships in a culturally appropriate way and to provide the space for feedback and guidance to district leaders on improving outcomes and opportunities for API students and families in the District; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Frieda Christopher, Chair of the David Douglas School Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim May 1st through May 31st, 2019 to be

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH
in the David Douglas School District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the David Douglas School Board of Directors strongly encourages our staff and community to observe, recognize, and celebrate the culture, heritage, and contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to our country, our state, our cities, and our schools.

Signed:

Frieda Christopher, Board Chair, David Douglas School District

⁶ <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/I/IGAB%20D1.PDF>

⁷ <http://policy.osba.org/ddouglas/J/IB%20D1.PDF>

⁸ <https://www.ddouglas.k12.or.us/school-board/school-board-racial-equity-committee/>