



February 2012 eNews

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APIASF Recognizes its Volunteer Readers

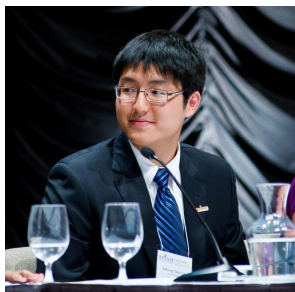
Over the past month, hundreds of volunteers from across the country have been working to read and review the thousands of completed scholarship applications received by APIASF.

As a way of showing thanks, several of APIASF's supporters have donated fabulous prizes for the volunteer readers. Every week, readers have the opportunity to be entered into a drawing by reading 20 applications. Prizes include Southwest Airlines ticket vouchers, a Wells Fargo Visa gift card, Hilton Hotel stays, and an iPad 2s donated by AT&T and APIASF Board Members Michael Fung and Jacinta Titalii Abbott.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Solomon** from Walmart and **Vila Hala** from Legal Aid Society, who have each won a \$50 Visa gift card, **Sonya Gilb** from the Dallas Independent School District who won a Southwest Ticket Voucher and to **Kyle Weismann-Yee** from Portland, Oregon who won an iPad 2!

There are still lots of applications to read and plenty of prizes! If you are interested in serving as a volunteer reader, please contact Devita Bishundat, Director, APIASF Scholarship Program, at dbishundat@apiasf.org.

APIASF Community College Scholar Launches New Initiative to Better Support Students



John Liu immigrated to the United States when he was 16 years old. As a newly immigrated student, he faced many challenges as he completed his high school degree and began to navigate the world of higher education. In 2010, John enrolled at De Anza College, one of APIASF's partners for its community college scholarship program.

Taking a chance, John decided to apply for the APIASF community college scholarship. In his application, John wrote that if he was selected that he hoped to find a way to give back to other students and make a difference for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. In the fall of 2010, John began his journey as an APIASF Scholar.

"Receiving the APIASF scholarship helped me see that I was part

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Scholar Profile



"As the first generation in my family to attend a four-year university, I am truly blessed to be able to set the bar for the following generations. My family is very proud of my accomplishment and this is another step closer to fulfilling my dreams. Thank you to those that have made this possible!"

**Dianna Rose Osana
2011 - 2012 APIASF /
Coca-Cola Scholar**

Attending University of California, Berkeley and Majoring in Mathematics

of a broader group," said John. "After getting the scholarship I realized that there were others who have experienced the same challenges."

John used his realization to look for ways that he could develop his leadership skills and be more active on campus. "My first term at De Anza I participated in the Cross Cultural Partner Program (CCP) and I was able to see that the partnership was great, but I realized it was not enough," said John.

Pulling from his experience as a student leader, John came up with the idea to create an extension of CCP that would be a student-run organization. Instead of the format of the traditional program where each English Language Learner (ELL) student was paired with a fluent speaker of English, the student-run organization would allow students to meet as a group and connect with many students at one time.

The format of the club also allows students to bypass the application process of the CCP program and makes it more accessible. Participants include students from many different backgrounds and ethnicities beyond the AAPI community.

"There are some students who are getting involved because they want to learn more about the immigrant or the AAPI experience so it is a great way to educate people," said John. "Doing activities together helps people relate, discover cultural diversity and increase awareness."

He hopes that through the program he will be able to help more newly immigrated students in their transition to life at De Anza and help others be more sensitive to the experience of AAPI students.

In the photo above is John Liu speaking at the 2011 APIASF Higher Education Summit in Washington, D.C.

Institute for Higher Education Policy Names APIASF's President & Executive Director to Board

The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) - a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization committed to promoting access to and success in higher education for all students - recently appointed Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) President & Executive Director Neil Horikoshi to its 10-member board of directors. The addition of Horikoshi reinforces IHEP's efforts of developing innovative policy- and practice-oriented research to guide policymakers and education leaders, who develop high-impact policies that will address our nation's most pressing education challenges.

"IHEP is delighted to welcome Neil, who is a leader of a trusted and highly esteemed organization in the higher education field. Neil brings a deep understanding of access and success issues, especially as they relate to underserved students such as low-income, first-generation, and minority students," said Arthur L. Coleman, chairman of the IHEP Board of Directors, and managing partner of EducationCounsel LLC, an affiliate of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. "The IHEP Board of Directors and staff are confident Neil will be a great contributor while helping to ensure the organization continues to thrive and works to bring attention to innovative ideas related to access to and success in

Did You Know?

Nearly 50 percent of all Asian American and Pacific Islander students enrolled in higher education are attending community colleges.

To help share their stories, APIASF provided video cameras to some of these students to document their experience on and off-campus.

[Click here to hear their stories.](#)

Give the Gift of Education

Did you know that you can make a difference for a deserving Asian American or Pacific Islander Student? One gift to APIASF can support a student in achieving their dream of higher education.

[Click here to make a difference in the life of a student.](#)

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attention to innovative ideas related to access to and success in higher education through core competency in research and policy analysis."

To read the entire press release, [click here](#).

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