ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER SCHOLARSHIP FUND TO HOST HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT FOR ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDENTS

Second Annual Event to Address Achievement Disparities

Among One of the Fastest Growing Minority Populations in the United States

Washington, D.C., May 5, 2011--The Asian & Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund (APIASF) announced today it's hosting the **2011 APIASF College Completion Forum: Strengthening Institutions that Serve Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans**, June 27-28, 2011, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. For the second consecutive year and as part of its higher education summit series, APIASF is bringing together a multicultural group of stakeholders from across the country who represent a diverse cross-sector of communities--including students, policymakers, national and local government officials, and leaders from the higher education and corporate sectors.

Focusing specifically on the national college completion agenda and its impact on the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community, the 2011 summit also aims to address the unique needs and large disparities of the AAPI student population related to high school dropout rates, college attendance, and workforce mobility and leadership opportunities. The first day is open to the public and kicks off with a discussion about forthcoming research from the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE) highlighting the experiences of the AAPI student population. On the second day, an invitation-only group of attendees--individuals who are already engaged in efforts to create positive change for all underrepresented students--will convene to (a) develop best practices and policies in support of AAPI student success and (b) examine the role of various stakeholders in increasing AAPI college completion.

"We are hoping to build on the success of last year's event to present a convening that allows us to identify policies and practices that support postsecondary education equity and include the AAPI student population--with the ultimate goal of helping to ensure access and success for all underserved students, which also includes African-American, Hispanic, Native American, and low-income students," said APIASF President and Executive Director Neil Horikoshi. "With the AAPI community continuing to be one of the fastest growing populations within the United States, it is critical they become part of the pipeline of diverse workers and future leadership to ensure America's success in the global economy."

The APIASF higher education series was created as a way to begin an engaging conversation about issues impacting AAPI students to improve access and success for all underserved students. In addition, the event aims to address recent projections by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and findings from the 2010 CARE report, *Federal Higher Education Policy Priorities and*

the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community, showing the fastest growing and most in-demand jobs will require some level of postsecondary education or training.

Last year's event welcomed more than 300 attendees to address the obstacles of access and success for underserved AAPI students while building a case for needed federal policies, increased investments, and improved research and data collection.

For more information about the 2011 APIASF College Completion Forum: Strengthening Institutions that Serve Asian American and Pacific Islander Americans or to register, visit APIASF's Web site at www.apiasf.org. Also, follow APIASF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/apiasf) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/apiasf) to receive daily updates about the event.

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About APIASF

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted solely to providing scholarships for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIA). Since 2003, APIASF has provided a critical bridge to higher education for APIA students across the country by awarding more than $3 million in scholarships to students. APIASF manages two scholarship programs: APIASF's general scholarship and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.