

**For Immediate Release**

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**First of Its Kind Study Finds Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Communities Dependent on California Public Colleges and Universities while Great Disparities in Access and Success Exist Across Groups.**

***Study by The Campaign for College Opportunity says needs of AANHPI communities overlooked and exacerbated by looking at group as monolithic whole***

**Los Angeles (September 15, 2015)** - The Campaign for College Opportunity in partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles today released **“The State of Higher Education in California: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander,”** report which examines how the state’s 6.3 million Asian Americans and 347,501 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI), representing 14% of California’s population, are faring in higher education.

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community represents the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in California, growing three times faster than the state’s overall population growth rate. Today, one in seven Californians are either Asian American or NHPI.

When AANHPI go to college in California, they overwhelmingly attend the state’s public colleges and universities. Eighty-seven percent of Asian Americans and 73% of NHPI start their college career in a California Community College (CCC), California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC) campus. Nearly half of all Asian Americans (47%) and 55% of NHPI start at a California community college.

“Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders rely heavily on our state’s public colleges and universities and when our institutions do not have the space to meet growing demand, AANHPI students, like all Californians, are hurt. If we are going to meet California’s economic need for an additional 2.3 million college educated workers by 2025, we have to adequately fund enrollment growth at our colleges and universities so that all qualified students have a spot,” said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

The report provides a deep analysis on the diversity within the AANHPI communities and wide disparities in college-degree attainment, enrollment in four-year universities, and graduation rates across the community. For example, 70% of Indian adults have a bachelors degree or higher compared to 10% of Laotian adults.

The report asserts that looking at Asian Americans and NHPI as one monolithic group is problematic as it can lead to inaccurate assumptions that AANHPI are doing well in terms of educational attainment, and therefore little to no policy or institutional interventions are necessary.

“With more than 48 ethnicities within the broader Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) category, the facts and data in this report paint a more accurate picture of the issues AANHPI students face in accessing higher education. Policymakers and higher education leaders must suspend the practice of seeing our

community as a monolithic whole. Our most disadvantaged AANHPI students continue to face significant barriers to educational access and success, including high poverty and low graduation rates at community colleges and four-year universities," says Stewart Kwoh, president & Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles.

The report recommends that education policies and practices be based on accurate disaggregated data for the AANHPI communities in order to close opportunity gaps in college preparation, college going, and completion between groups. The study also calls for continued investment and expansion of capacity in public higher education where a majority of AANHPI students begin and complete their college degrees.

Other key findings in the report include:

- Only 37% of NHPI students are eligible for admission to the University of California or California State University system.
- 19% of NHPI enroll in private for-profit colleges, a rate higher than all other ethnic groups.
- Nearly 50% of Asian American adults have a bachelor's degree or higher but only 15% of NHPI have a bachelor's degree or higher.
- At least 60% of Laotian, Filipino, and Cambodian students have been assessed in pre-college math or English at a California Community College.
- Six-year community college completion rates differ by more than 20 points among Asian Americans and NHPI. There is a 40 point difference between Chinese graduation rates at 73% and Samoan graduation rates at 29%.
- Asian American (13%) and NHPI (11%) groups have lower four-year graduation rates at the California State University system than White students (24%).
- Asian Americans have the highest UC admit rates of all racial/ethnic groups at 72% while NHPI have admit rates lower than Latinos, at 54%.

**The full report is available at**

<http://www.collegecampaign.org/resource-library/our-publications/>

***About The Campaign for College Opportunity:***

*The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit research and advocacy organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy. For more information, visit [www.CollegeCampaign.org/](http://www.CollegeCampaign.org/) [Facebook.com/CollegeCampaign](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeCampaign) or follow [@CollegeOpp](https://twitter.com/CollegeOpp).*

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