

# Building Sustainable AANHPI Student Leadership Pathways at California Community Colleges

CCC AANHPI SAP Central Office

Foundation CCC Student Ambassador Program



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# Who We Are: AANHPI SAP Central Office Team



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# Who We Are: CCC Student Ambassador Program team



**Marisela Hernandez**

*Program Manager, Student  
Ambassador and Community  
Resource Efforts*



**Yuriko Curiel**

*Program Specialist, CCC  
Student Ambassador  
Program*

# Panelist Introductions



**Dr. Aida Cuenza,**  
ARISE Program Director,  
Mt. San Antonio College



**Dr. Deejay Santiago,**  
Director, Student Success Initiatives,  
Irvine Valley College



**Dr. Andrea Medina,**  
Instructor & Faculty Lead, AANHPI Coordinator,  
Diablo Valley College



**Alohi Cautiverio,**  
AANHPI Student Ambassador,  
Diablo Valley College



**Ema Fua,**  
AANHPI Student Ambassador,  
San Joaquin Delta College



**Abhiram Pulicherla,**  
ARISE Peer Mentor,  
Mt. San Antonio College



**Ash Kaur,**  
AANHPI Student Ambassador,  
Irvine Valley College



# Today's Presentation

Today's session explores how the AANHPI Student Achievement Program is strengthening leadership pathways across California Community Colleges through mentorship, learning communities, and student ambassador initiatives. Participants will hear directly from AANHPI Student Ambassadors about how leadership opportunities have shaped their academic journeys, advocacy, and sense of belonging.

# About CCC AANHPI SAP

- The Foundation for California Community Colleges was selected by the Chancellor's Office, in partnership with CAPIAA and APAHE, to serve as the Central Office for the CCC Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program (AANHPI SAP).
- Established to provide culturally responsive services that strengthen student experiences and promote higher education success.
- Focused on supporting low-income, first-generation, AANHPI students, and other underserved and underrepresented CCC students.



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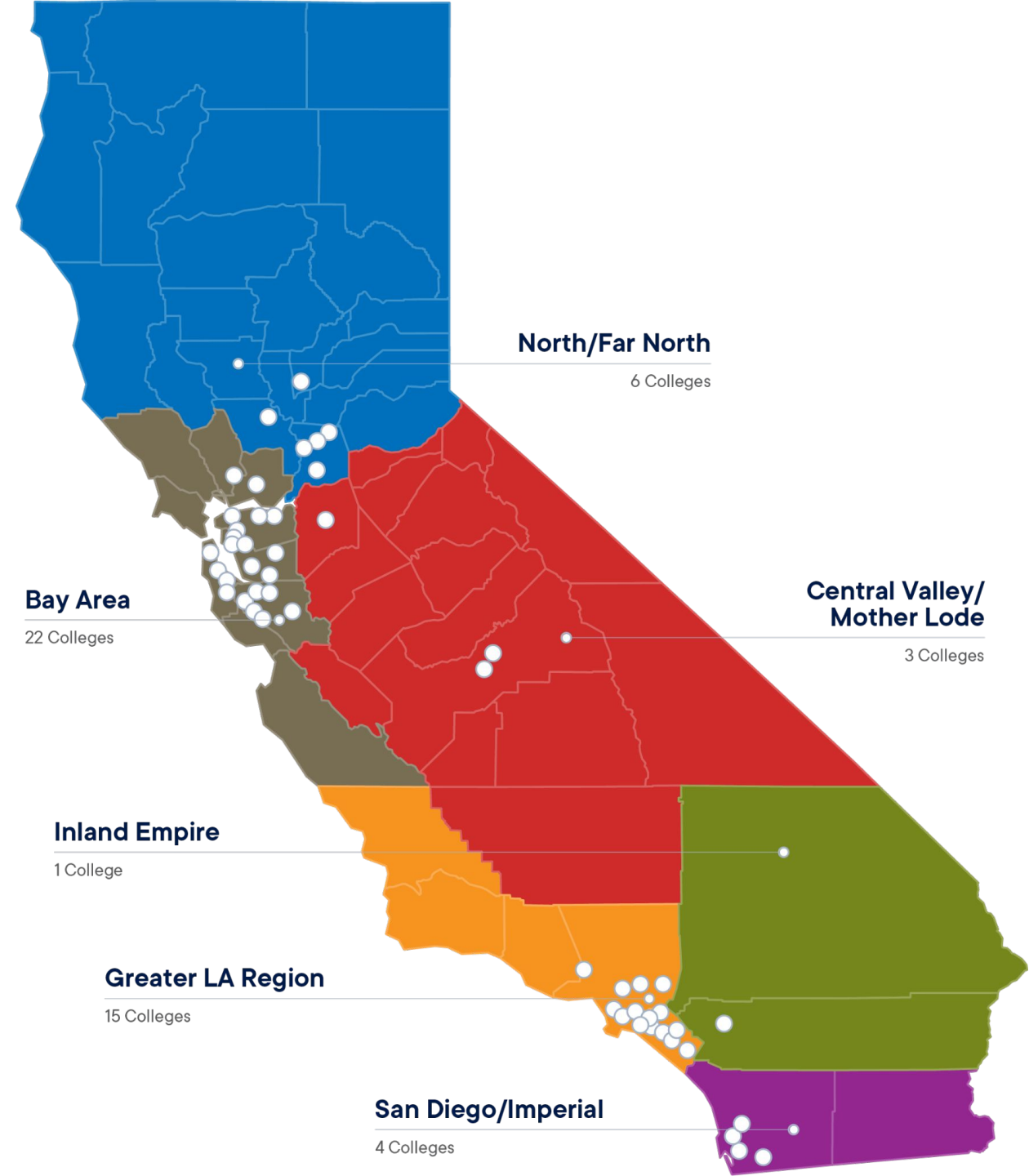
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# CCC AANHPI SAP Funded Colleges

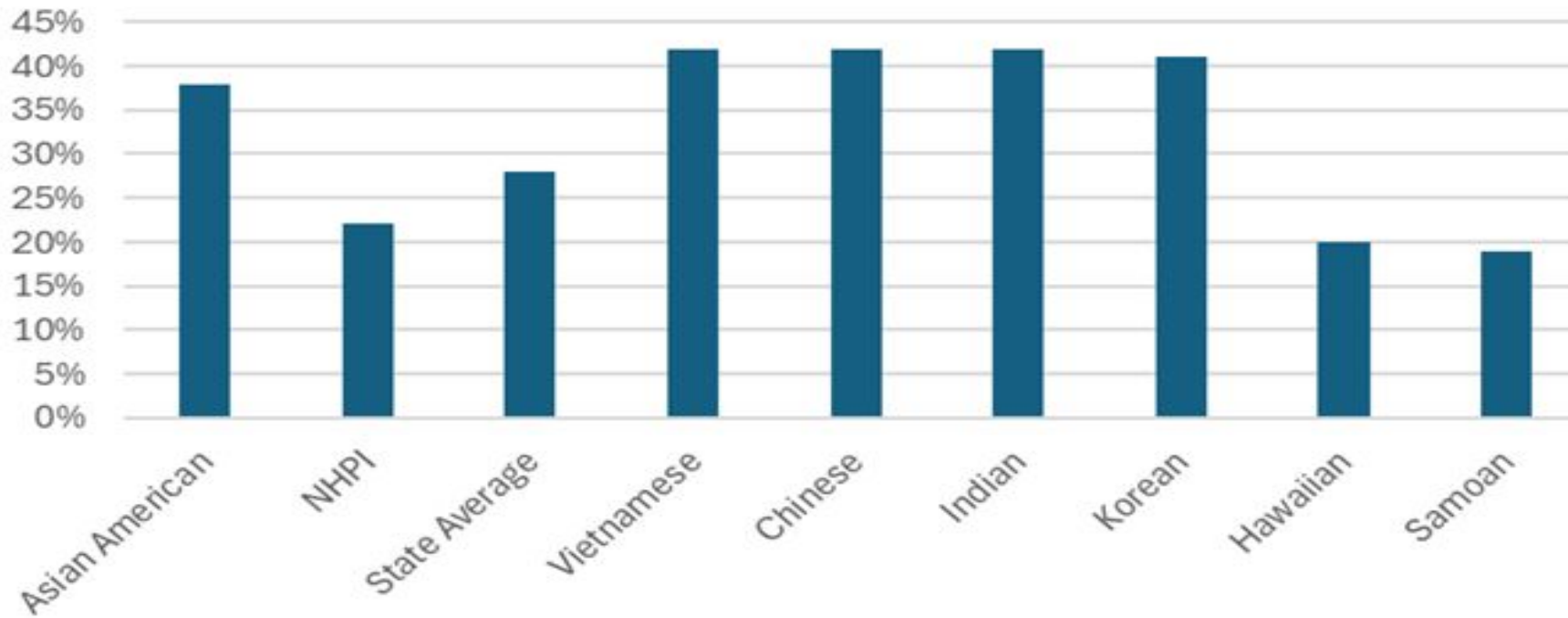


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## AANHPI 6-Year Transfer Rates, Students Enrolling in 2013-2014



Data sourced from: State of Higher Education for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Californians • The Campaign for College Opportunity • May 2022, **Figure 13**, **Page 40**



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# Mission and Vision

- Our mission is to support the success of AANHPI and underserved students by providing policy guidance, technical assistance, and statewide partnership-building.
- As the Central Office, FoundationCCC offers flexible support to help colleges develop collaborations, secure resources, and deliver essential services.
- The program, protected by groundbreaking legislation, is designed to transform educational outcomes for AANHPI and underserved students across California community colleges.
- This work represents a major milestone in advancing AANHPI initiatives within the CCC system.



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# Understanding AANHPI Student Experiences

- AANHPI students are among some of the most diverse student populations across California Community Colleges. AANHPI encompasses over 50 ethnic groups.
- Aggregated data often masks the needs of many communities.
- Students may experience:
  - Lack of culturally affirming spaces
  - Limited visibility in policy and programming
  - Barriers to accessing basic needs and support services
- Belonging and cultural visibility are strongly linked to persistence, retention, and completion.



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# Student Leadership in Practice

- Partnership with the CCC Student Ambassador Program allows AANHPI SAP priorities to be experienced through peer mentorship, community engagement, and culturally responsive outreach.
- In practice, Student Ambassadors:
  - Conduct peer-to-peer outreach on basic needs and campus resources
  - Share knowledge grounded in lived experience
  - Build trust across diverse student communities
  - Create spaces where students feel seen, supported, and empowered
  - Strengthen connections between students and institutional supports
- Student leadership transforms programs from services students can access into communities students want to engage in.



# Student Ambassadors are Closing the Equity Gap

- AANHPI SAP was established to advance culturally responsive, equity-driven support for low-income, first-generation, AANHPI, and other underserved students. While the Central Office provides statewide guidance and technical assistance to the colleges, meaningful impact to students can happen through trusted, peer-to-peer engagement.
- Partnering with the CCC Student Ambassador Program strengthens AANHPI SAP by:
  - Increasing awareness of critical campus resources
  - Reducing stigma around accessing basic needs support
  - Improving outreach to historically underserved students
  - Creating leadership pathways that reflect student lived experience
  - Expanding the reach of culturally responsive programming
- Student Ambassadors help translate institutional resources into accessible, culturally responsive support.



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# CCC Student Ambassador Community Resources

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# The Power of Peer-to-Peer Outreach

- Trust and relatability
- Approachable communication
- Shared experiences
- Increased engagement
- Effective outreach
- Empowerment
- Professional Development

*"I hosted a study session with my Filipino Club where I shared all of the potentially useful outreach sources to all the attendees! People were eager to check out the goodies such as stress balls, stickers, and other trinkets that caught their attention! It was great to see how they reacted when they saw the Tagalog CalFresh poster card!"*

*Diablo Valley College*



# Impact on Student Ambassadors

## Empower Students, Inspire Change



Make an impact on campus



Access leadership training



Connect students to resources



Join a statewide movement



Grow professional skills



Engage in an alumni network

*"When I introduced myself in all my classes as a Basic Needs Ambassador, sharing what the Basic Needs Office offers, several classmates reached out for support and learned about resources they didn't know existed. Some even received grocery and financial help within the moment! This experience showed me how a simple, personal introduction can make a real difference in connecting students to the support they need."*

*- Ohlone College*



# AANHPI Cohort Overview

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Through strategic partnership with the AANHPI Student Achievement Program, the CCC Student Ambassador Program has supported two AANHPI cohorts. The 2025–2026 cohort included eight returning student ambassadors, reflecting strong retention and ongoing student leadership growth.

**Total Connections: 136, 580 (two cohorts)**

Cohort	Number of Students	Total Outreach Hours	Total Number of connections
Fall 2024 - Spring 2025	45	2,201	81,413
Fall 2025	30	617	55,167

# Leadership in Action

- Real world leadership experience through peer to peer support
- Public speaking, facilitation, and community engagement skills
- Exposure to statewide networks, professionals, and career pathways
- Monthly Leadership Academy trainings focused on professional and personal growth



# Redesigning Outreach Materials

## Representation Matters!

- These materials were redesigned to reach AANHPI students more effectively.
- Translation is only the first step
- Many students face stigma, cultural barriers, or unfamiliarity with programs like CalFresh, and materials must address these barriers.



# Student Ambassador Showcase

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Join us for our Student Ambassador Showcase

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m



# Collective Leadership In Action: Practitioner Panel



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# AANHPI Student Panel



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# Thank you!

Contact us:

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