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## **APIASF AND WELLS FARGO KICKS OFF 2015 JUMP START COLLEGE TOUR EVENTS**

*2015 Jump Start College Tour Kicks Off in Orange County to Boost Academic, Leadership and Professional Skills for Local Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) High School Students*

Washington, D.C. (February 19, 2015) - The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF), the nation's largest non-profit organization devoted to providing college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), is kicking off the 2015 series of Jump Start College Tour events at Coastline College's Le-Jao Center on Feb. 28. The event, presented by Wells Fargo, will provide local high school students and their families with critical scholarship, financial, and leadership development resources.

The Jump Start College Tour series targets the nation's Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI), such as Coastline Community College, that enroll more than 40 percent of all AAPI undergraduates nationally. Through this series, APIASF will be able to reach the largest AAPI student populations at the institutions they attend. Participants will learn how to identify the resources that can help support their pursuit of higher education, to anticipate career trends, strengthen their money management skills, leverage their personal networks, improve their professional communications skills and build their personal brand.

"The Jump Start College Tour will help local high school students and community boost their leadership and professional skills and learn how to leverage resources to achieve their personal goals," said Neil Horikoshi, APIASF president and executive director. "This new program allows APIASF to provide direct service to high school students in some of America's fastest growing AAPI communities. It will help raise awareness of the needs of the students in the local community and provide APIASF with the opportunity to strengthen our ongoing partnerships with the nation's AANAPISIs to increase the impact we have on student success." Horikoshi said.

"Wells Fargo is proud to play a role in helping students get access to the resources that will help them as they pursue their educational dreams," said Tim Hanlon, President of the Wells Fargo Foundation and Executive Vice President at Wells Fargo. "The success of AAPI students is important to our communities, important to efforts to continue to diversify our country's workforce, and important to Wells Fargo."

In addition to each event, there will be a special community reception the prior evening that will be attended by many local business and community leaders. The reception will highlight the need for

ongoing collaborations through organizations like APIASF with AANAPISIs to support local economic development and create a pipeline of future business leaders.

The 2015 Jump Start College Tour will be visiting Boston, MA; Newark, NJ; and Dallas, TX. For details about APIASF's events and to learn more about our work to strengthen communities and its scholarship programs, visit us at [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org). Also, follow APIASF on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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### **About Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund**

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit provider of college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). APIASF works to create opportunities for students to access, complete, and succeed after post-secondary education; thereby developing future leaders who will excel in their career, serve as role models in their communities, and will ultimately contribute to a vibrant America. Since 2003, APIASF has distributed nearly \$90 million in scholarships to AAPI students across the country and in the Pacific Islands. APIASF manages three scholarship programs: APIASF's general scholarship, the APIASF Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) scholarship program, and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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