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APIASF HOSTS 6TH ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION SUMMIT

Preeminent National Gathering to Highlight AAPI Student Success and Workforce Development

Washington, D.C. (June 16, 2015)—On June 23, the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) will host its sixth annual APIASF Higher Education Summit in Washington, D.C. convening hundreds of the nation's education leaders to address the needs of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. This year's theme, "Ensuring AAPI Student Success: Prospering in America's Future Workforce," will highlight the important role that institutions play in developing AAPI students into graduates who are poised to prosper in today's economy.

Hosted annually at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, the APIASF Higher Education Summit Series is the most widely-attended national higher education event aimed at raising awareness about the unique needs of the AAPI student population and the institutions they attend through the release of new data, panel discussions, town hall meetings, and a series of concurrent sessions submitted by leaders in higher education, government and the community.

"As the future of America's fastest growing population, AAPI graduates will become critical contributors to the nation's workforce and central to America's economic development," said APIASF President and Executive Director Neil Horikoshi. "Central to APIASF's mission is the ultimate goal of developing future leaders who contribute to a vibrant America, and a key component of this mission is an intentional investment in workforce development. In preparing AAPI college students for the future, institutions must consider how leadership training on campus translates into leadership skills. This year's Summit will identify steps that leaders can take to ensure that students are graduating with the tools necessary to prosper in a 21st century workforce."

In its brief six-year history, the pioneering summit has provided non-profits, federal agencies, corporations, and institutions of higher education a forum to strengthen existing collaborations and develop partnerships. Attendees engage with top practitioners and policymakers on scalable best practices, successful institutional capacity-building initiatives, new research and data, and evidence-based recommendations to strengthen students, families and communities. Leadership from nearly all of the Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) are expected to attend the event to discuss the impact of their institutions and other minority-serving institutions have on workforce development.

"As our nation's economic landscape continues to change, the students and graduates need to be prepared to succeed after college," states Seong Ohm, Senior Vice President of Sam's Club. "Sam's Club and Walmart are excited to contribute to the Summit by encouraging students to go beyond their degree to a position where pursuing a sustainable career path is within reach." Arati Randolph, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications for Wells Fargo adds that while scholarships and funding for student support are meaningful, the conversation around career readiness must continue to shape the dialogue. "Wells Fargo has partnered with APIASF to address college access through financial aid workshops and scholarships. These efforts have helped hundreds of students fulfill their dreams of attending college, but now, we are answering the question – how do we ensure that these students will succeed post-college?"

The event will kick off with keynote remarks from AAPI advocate and MSNBC Anchor & Journalist Richard Lui and culminate with a community call to action to boost leadership and skill development for AAPI students. For the first



time, the Summit will also be livestreamed in an effort to broadcast and elevate this important conversation on a broader scale.

Following the day's events, APIASF will host a special evening reception recognizing the service of Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders, and Sachi Koto, Founder of the Who's Who in Asian American Communities Alliance Foundation.

The 2015 APIASF Higher Education Summit is made possible through the support of: Walmart, Wells Fargo (Presenting Sponsors); American College Test (ACT), General Motors, Nielsen, United Health Foundation (Silver Sponsors); Teach for America (Bronze Sponsor); and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

For more information about APIASF's 2015 Higher Education Summit, visit the event's website at summit.apiasf.org or email summit@apiasf.org. Also, follow APIASF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/apiasf) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/apiasf) to receive live event updates.

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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 to providing 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 more than \$90 million in scholarships to deserving AAPI 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.