



East Coast Asian American Student Union • Midwest Asian American Students Union • National APIA Panhellenic Association •
Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations • University of Maryland

ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITY PROJECT: APPLICATION

February 2010

I. Project Asian American Identity

A. What is the Project's purpose?

The Asian American community is one of the fastest growing population segments in the United States. Yet, in many ways the Asian American community continues to be misunderstood and misrepresented. Conversation that typically follows frequently uses the term “model minority myth” or “political apathy” as major causes. However, we must caution ourselves from defaulting to generic taglines. Beyond the myth and political apathy has been a generation of Asian American’s working for the advancement of our community. Although we have made tremendous strides of progress together, we nevertheless continue to face substantial hurdles: misconceived understanding of healthcare, access to higher education, continued racial ignorance, and underrepresentation in corporations, universities and government.

As a community, we can not afford to simply react to challenges or racial incidents. **The Asian American Identity Project** is founded on the principle of a pro-active approach of educating our community about our history of activism and about our realities of the challenges we face together.

B. What are the Project's goals?

The Project's goals are to inspire the next generation of leaders to recognize our current challenges, to creatively develop potential solutions and to diligently push forward the momentum of progress tomorrow. To that end, the Project will create a series of educational program media (i.e. documentary, presentation) that captures the most relevant and critical stories to inspire a new generation of Asian American activists. The programs will target those who may not be aware of the major strides our community has made over the past 30 years and the major hurdles that still loom in our future.

C. What kinds of opportunities and responsibilities will I find as a member of the team?

As a member of the team, you will be involved with the Project from start to completion: the development of the program content, the creation of the documentary and other educational media, and the marketing process to disseminate widely. You will work with a national team to research the historical, demographic, political and cultural issues that form the dynamics of today's Asian American culture. You and the team will create the program outline by prioritizing most relevant content to highlight, using the content outline to generate professional educational media.

The Asian American Identity Project is an opportunity for you to reach out to your community and to help define a legacy of pro-action. As our mentors helped us define a path for our own activism and involvement, this Project serves as an opportunity for us to help define that path for the next generation. You will have the opportunity to work with leaders from across the country as part of the project team. Also, as part of your experience, you will have the opportunity to travel across the country as you network with different organizations in distributing the final products.

D. What kind of resources will we have to be successful?

The East Coast Asian American Student Union, Midwest Asian American Students Union, National APIA Panhellenic Association, Union of North American Vietnamese Student Associations, and the University of Maryland have partnered to commit the resources necessary for a successful product, including community and professional contacts, dedicated staff volunteers, funding, and broad distribution networks.

E. How do I become involved?

Please complete the following application and submit all required attachments by **Sunday, March 21 by 11:59pm PST** to Project.Asam@unavsa.org.



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II. Application Requirements

A. Application Form

Please fill out the following information:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Address:

State, Zip Code:

School:

Graduation Date (anticip.):

Organization (if applicable):

B. Resume

Please attach your resume, including current academic, work and/or extracurricular experiences you believe would be relevant for your candidacy.

C. Essay Questions

Please answer the below questions in an attached sheet to include with your application. Please keep your responses to each question to 200 words or less.

1. What do you think are the biggest hurdles facing the Asian American community?
2. Describe a time you worked in a team based environment? What was your role and what strengths and/or leadership skills did you bring to the team?
3. What experience(s) do you have dealing with issues facing the Asian American community?
4. What project ideas or working experiences would you like to contribute to the team?
5. What other professional or extra-curricular commitments will you have over the next year? How do you anticipate it affecting your involvement with this project?