

Joint Letter from NAPIC, NCBA, and NCCHC on Anti-Asian Hate

The killings of eight individuals in Atlanta, Georgia, six of whom were women of Asian descent, shook our nation and made visible the growing anti-Asian hate since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 3800 incidents were reported in the last year alone. Each incident reminds us of our nation's painful history of xenophobia and that the pain of our Asian American communities is felt in solidarity with the sufferings of our Black, Indigenous and Brown communities. We are faced with the stark reality that racism and the exclusionary impulse of our nation is indiscriminate in its hate and exists as the dark side of our aspirational American Dream of liberty and justice for All.

The complex history of AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) communities is fraught with false narratives, such as the Model Minority Myth, perpetual invisibility and alienation, and the blatant violation of human and property rights. With a history of xenophobia rarely acknowledged and simmering beneath the surface, any provocation sets off this tendency to violence. It is widely acknowledged that the former U.S. President's insinuations about the "Chinese Virus" has fed the current rash of attacks, just as his "dog whistles" about minorities and immigrants have split our country apart. The fear and intimidation experienced by AAPIs now and throughout history finds painful parallels in the injustices suffered by our Black, Latinx and Indigenous peoples. The exclusionary impulse of our nation spares no one.

We, the National Asian Pacific Islander Council (NAPIC), the National Council of Black American Affairs (NCBA) and the National Community College Hispanic Council (NCCHC) have come together as a coalition of affiliated minority-based councils of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC).

Together, we grieve with our AAPI family and we condemn all acts of complicity, intolerance and discrimination against our Communities of Color and our Indigenous Communities.

Together, we embrace our difference as strength to repudiate racial hatred and supremacy of all kinds.

Together, we strive for diversity and inclusion in service of equity and we reaffirm the ideals of liberty and justice for All in the restoration of the true American Dream.

Together, as community college leaders of color, we continue to uplift the voices of those who have been silenced, marginalized and victimized. As we lifted our voices with Black Lives Matter and we championed our Dreamers and DACA students; we stand with our AAPI family.

Together, we commit to open conversations, to listen, to have difficult dialogues, to learn from each other about the myths, inequities, biases, and discrimination within our organizations, and to strive together at this pivotal moment of change.

Together, as NAPIC, NCBA and NCCHC leaders with a common cause, we call our community college colleagues to action. We must help curb our nation's exclusionary impulse through a deeper understanding of history, reshape the course of our shameful history and rebuild our systems in higher education, so that our country can achieve its fullest potential.

Note: Resources we can share and use together in our colleges to support and act on Anti-Asian hate incidents:

1. Stop AAPI Hate: The Asian Pacific Planning Council, Chinese for Affirmative Action and the Asian American Studies Department of San Francisco State University launched the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center on March 19, 2020 in different languages. <https://stopaapihate.org>
2. The Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation has been documenting hate crime and incidents since 2017. <https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>
3. Hollaback Bystander Training <https://www.ihollaback.org/bystanderintervention/>

Respectfully on behalf of their Boards of Directors



Mark Mitsui
President, NAPIC



Rhonda Spells-Fentry
President, NCBA



Robert Vela
President, NCCHC