



Founded in 1995, APAICS promotes, supports and conducts non-partisan education and informational activities, research and programs designed to effectively increase the participation of individuals of Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) heritage at all levels from community service to elected office.

As more APIAs participate in all facets of government life as elected and appointed officials, APAICS's vision for a full and equal presence for our community in public life continues to gain momentum. The APIA community is advancing up the political ladder. Ready to lead the APIA community into the 21st century, APAICS is the torchbearer for an ambitious agenda of political empowerment, candidate training and coalition building.

State Farm® Background:

Our relationship with APAICS started in 1999 and continues with sponsorship in three categories. These programs provide State Farm Corporate and Zone associates with opportunities to network with local and emerging national APIA leaders.

- The National Asian Pacific American School Board and Educational Policy Conference brings together up and coming community leaders. As school boards are often springboards for successful political careers, the Conference is pipeline and forum for prospective national leaders.
- The State Farm Congressional Fellowships support up to five young elected state and local officials to be mentored by Congressmen and Congresswomen on Capitol Hill.
- The annual Awards Gala is the premier APIA political gathering in the country. Previous speakers include President Bill Clinton, Secretary Elaine Chow, and Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Corporate and Zone associates have an opportunity to meet the current APIA Congressional officials and Presidential appointees.

Art Ruiz, Director, serves of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Leslie Moe-Kaiser, Public Affairs, serves on the Advisory Board.

At A Glance:

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Fast Facts

- 1959 – Hiram Fong, Hawaii's first Senator and first APIA elected to U.S. Senate.
- 1971 – Norman Y. Mineta, first Japanese American mayor of a major U.S. mainland city, San Jose, CA.
- 1973 – George Roh, first Korean American elected to school board, Berkeley, CA.
- 1979 – Dolores Sibonga, first Filipino American to pass WA bar exam and first minority woman on Seattle's City Council.
- 1990 – Kumar Barve, first person of Indian descent elected as state legislator in U.S.
- 1990 – Patsy T. Mink, first APIA woman elected to U.S. Congress; first APIA on a presidential ballot.
- 1992 – Choua Lee, first Hmong elected to public office in U.S., St. Paul school district.
- 1995 – Minh Chau Nguyen, first Vietnamese woman elected to public office in the U.S., City Council, Garrett Park, MD.
- 2000 – Norman Y. Mineta, first APIA Cabinet appointee, U.S. Secy. of Commerce; 2001 U.S. Secy. of Transportation.

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