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OAPIA Bi-Weekly Newsletter

News Updates from the DC Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

A Message from the Mayor



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

Dear Community Members:

My administration is committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for all children in the District of Columbia. I recently outlined my education vision in a speech to stakeholders.

As I stated, to achieve our goals, we must rapidly expand the number of high quality school options by strengthening existing schools and programs to ensure that they provide the highest quality education to the largest number of students; and by simplifying the way families access all aspects of our education system, among other actions.

The District ranks ahead of all 50 states in early childhood education in the percentage of three- and-four-year-olds served. Enrollment is steadily increasing, and we are working hard to ensure the highest quality across all public pre-kindergarten programs in the District. Decades of research shows that students who receive high quality early childhood education are much more likely to have better outcomes down the road in a number of areas such as improving academic achievement, employment and earnings; and avoiding truancy and criminal activity.

We are looking at ways to build on our success in early childhood education. One way is by extending the hours and times of year our children have access to nurturing and enriching school environments. We also need to ensure that working families are able to obtain affordable and high quality infant and toddler care.

The importance of teachers cannot be overstated; they provide encouragement, inspiration, and valuable guidance in the classroom. Moreover, when teachers build trusting relationships with families and engage them as active partners, parental involvement results in increased student attendance and better academic performance.

My Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs recently honored Asian American and Pacific Islander teachers who are doing great things to help our children reach their potential. I applaud these teachers and all educators who are working with my administration to build a comprehensive system of public schools--traditional and charter--that provides high quality options to all children in every community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

Workshop on Changes to Healthcare Benefits and HIV Education



Vietnamese residents attend a workshop on changes to healthcare benefits and HIV education.

OAPIA co-sponsored a workshop on changes to healthcare benefits and HIV education on Monday, June 24, 2013 at the Vietnamese American Community Service Center.

For more information about the changes to healthcare benefits or HIV education, please email OAPIA at oapia@dc.gov.

DC Public Schools (DCPS) Teacher Featured in Chinese Newspaper



DCPS teacher Jonathan Jou (right) with DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson (left).

DC Public Schools (DCPS) teacher Jonathan Jou, pictured with DCPS Chancellor Kaya Henderson at the [OAPIA AAPI Teacher Appreciation Reception](#), is featured in the [World Journal](#), a daily Chinese language newspaper. The online article (Chinese) is available [here](#).

OAPIA Announces a Request for Applications for the FY2014 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - The Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) issued its Request For Applications (RFA) for the FY2014 Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Grant. Copies of the RFA can be found at www.apia.dc.gov or at OAPIA's office located at 441 4th Street, NW, 721N Washington, DC 20001.

OAPIA is soliciting grant applications from qualified community-based organizations (CBOs) serving the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The grant is intended to fund programs that provide services to the District's AAPI residents and/or merchants in the areas of employment, economic development, education, safety, housing, legal, health and human, and arts, culture and humanities.

A pre-bidders meeting will be held Wednesday, July 15, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Room 1112 South at 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC. The deadline for submission is Thursday, August 1, 2013 at 12:00 noon.

For more information, please visit our website at www.apia.dc.gov or contact Neel Saxena at neel.saxena@dc.gov or 202-727-3120.

The press release is available online [here](#).

OAPIA News

OAPIA Welcomes Additional Summer Interns



Sandra Chung

Sandra Chung was born and raised in Olney, MD. She will be a rising senior at Sherwood High School. She co-founded the Asian Pacific Student Union at her school, and currently serves as the organization's president. Sandra is also vice president of the Key Club and is an active member of several other clubs. In her free time, Sandra volunteers for the American Wheat Mission, and for the Korean American People's Disabled Association (KAPDA), working with children and adults with disabilities.

Sandra desires to attend the University of Virginia and to major in business and communication. She intends to enhance her communication skills while interning at OAPIA this summer.

Eugene Chung was born in Seoul, South Korea, but moved to the United States at the age of 14. He is currently a rising senior at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland. Eugene is a current student ambassador at his school and is a member of the Environmental Club. Eugene received a perfect score on the SAT II Korean exam, and is skilled in Korean to English translation. He is interested in studying in the humanitarian fields, especially in law or diplomatic foreign affairs, once he enters college.

Eugene hopes to learn about workplace etiquette and how local government functions while interning at OAPIA. He aspires to become a lawyer or diplomat one day.



Eugene Chung

Tzeyin Tang was born and raised in Hong Kong. She moved to the United States in 2006, and attended high school in the District of Columbia. Tzeyin is currently a rising sophomore at Georgetown University majoring in biological science. Although Tzeyin's studies are not in the field of public service, she is nonetheless passionate about contributing back to the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community.

At OAPIA, Tzeyin hopes to improve her communication and research skills. Although her career aspiration is to become a



Tzeyin Tang

physician, Tzeyin also hopes to be an active member within the AAPI community in the future.

Spotlight: The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA)



The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) is a nonprofit educational and professional organization devoted and to support Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the field of journalism. Found in 1981, AAJA now has more than 1,600 members, including some of the nation's top journalists and Pulitzer winners, in its 21 chapters across the United States and Asia.

For information about the AAJA, please visit [here](#).

July is Parks and Recreation Month



Since 1985, the United States has celebrated the month of July as the nation's official Parks and Recreation Month to encourage the usage of public athletic facilities as well as the participation in outdoors activities.

The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) offers several programs for residents in the

District of Columbia:

- Programs for Kids and Youth
 - The 2013 Summer Camp season will offer sessions during the following remaining periods: July 8, 2013 - July 19, 2013, July 22, 2013 - August 2, 2013, August 5, 2013 - August 16, 2013.
 - Learn more about the offerings at <http://dpr.dc.gov/book/summer-camp-listings>.
- Programs for Adults
 - DPR offers a number of sports activities for adults to maintain an active lifestyle while engaging with others in their community in recreational and fun competition.
 - Learn more about the sports at <http://dpr.dc.gov/service/adult-sports>.
- Programs that are Family-Friendly
 - DPR Aquatics offers residents of all ages and abilities a variety of high-quality programming from aqua aerobics and swim instruction to scuba and water polo. Local residents can also join competitive swim teams and obtain a life-guarding certificate.
 - Learn more about the activities at <http://dpr.dc.gov/service/aquatic-activities>.

Please visit the [DC Department of Parks and Recreation website](#) for more information on facility locations and hours, and other exciting events.

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