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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

September 24, 2014

Dear Community Members:

I would like to welcome all parents and students back to another exciting school year in the District of Columbia. The importance of education can never be overemphasized. As always, my administration has been making strong efforts to transform educational options for all District youth, and we are seeing results. From increasing public school enrollment to steady progress in student proficiency rates across the District, it is clear that our schools have turned a corner.

But we cannot be satisfied with what we have achieved—we can and must do more. That is why this school year marks the launch of several new programs backed by new funding in my Fiscal Year 2015 budget. Some of these programs include career academies and vocational education to prepare high school students for high-wage, high-demand industries; a longer school day at 25 schools to help close the achievement gap; and continued support for public charter schools.

Additionally, my Administration has launched groundbreaking initiatives to provide District students with innovative programs. The opening of nine Career and Technical Education Academies (CTE) serving more than 400 students is a great example. The CTEs at DC Public Schools (DCPS) and DC Public Charter Schools (DCPCS) are designed to train young people for high-demand careers in the information technology, engineering, and hospitality industries.

Finally, as laid forth in my FY15 budget, my Administration will invest an additional \$112 million for DCPS and DCPCS, invest an additional \$4.2 million for infant and toddler programs to continue a focus on early childhood education, and allocate \$409 million for ongoing citywide school modernization. I remain committed to ensuring that all children in the District receive the educational opportunities that will allow them to obtain a high quality education and achieve success in life.

Sincerely,

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

Vincent C. Gray

OAPIA in the Community

First Korean Ambassador's Cup KORUS Taekwondo Championship



OAPIA Director Soohyun "Julie" Koo addressing the crowd at the first Korean Ambassador's Cup KORUS Taekwondo Championship.



Participants and spectators at the championship.

OAPIA, in partnership with the Korean Taekwondo Association of USA (KTAUSA) and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the USA, hosted the first Korean Ambassador's Cup KORUS (Korea-U.S.) Taekwondo Championship on September 20, 2014 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Over 3500 participants and spectators attended the event.

Taekwondo, Korea's traditional martial art, is more than a sport practiced for a healthy body; it cultivates a sound mind and a balanced, disciplined way of life. The championship will highlight the heritage of Taekwondo, promote the techniques and benefits of Taekwondo, and strengthen the friendship between the peoples of Korea and the United States.

Spotlight: Asian American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)



The Asian American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) is dedicated to improving the economic development for Asian Pacific American owned businesses in VA/DC/MD. AACC facilitates the growth and development of member businesses through AACC sponsored events such as business networking programs, business expos, business development workshops, seminars and other special events. AACC provides a platform for members to network and market their products and services.

For more information on [AACC](#), please visit [here](#).

September is National Preparedness Month



National Preparedness Month is a time to prepare yourself and those in your care for emergencies and disasters, both large scale and smaller local events. Emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like yours, to people like you. Tornado outbreaks, river floods and flash floods, historic earthquakes, tsunamis, and even water main breaks and power outages have impacted communities in the past for days at a time.

As commendable as they may be in their profession of assisting those in need, police, fire and rescue may not always be able to reach you quickly in an emergency or disaster. The most important step you can take in helping your local responders is being able to take care of yourself and those in your care for at least a short period of time following an incident; the more people who are prepared, the quicker the community will recover.

For more information or resources concerning emergency preparedness, please visit:

- [DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency](#)
- [Serve DC's Community Emergency Response Team \(CERT\) Training](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)

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