UMN at a Glance

UMN Undergraduate Population: 31,367 - F2019

UMN AAPI Undergraduate Population: 4038 (12.87%) - F2019

- Undergraduate Asian American Population: 3939
- Undergraduate Hawaiian (Pacific Islander) Population: 99
- Hmong, Vietnamese, and other Southeast Asians are among the largest ethnic groups represented

Minnesota is home to over 316,000 AAPI's.

- Southeast Asians make up about 50% of all AAPI population in MN.
- The Hmong population make up the largest Asian American population in MN at 78,000 and growing.

University of Minnesota Office of Institutional Research and Council of Asian Pacific Minnesotans 2018 Report
Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI)

- Minority Serving Institution (MSI) designation
- AANAPISI signed into legislation in 2007
- Federal designation and grant to develop institutional capacity to serve and support AAPI students
- Increase AAPI student retention and graduation
- Institution AAPI undergraduate population must be at or above 10% and serves large portion of Pell-eligible students
- Demonstrate need for resources and support of AAPI students
WHAT IS APARC?
APARC is a community committed to affirming the experiences of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students and their diverse communities.

- Student center and space
- Programming and resources
- Academic support
- Community and leadership development
- And FUN!
Serving Our Students

APARC Programs

- ASPIRE Peer Mentoring Program
- New AAPI Student Welcome
- Peer Tutoring & Writing Support
- AAPI Leadership Summit
- Career Connections
- AAPI Speaker Series
- Multimodal Storytelling
- AAPI Library
- Teaching Pathways
- AAS New Courses
Data Collection Tools

- Program Applications or Registration Forms
- Attendance Forms (Google Form, EventBrite, etc…)
- Event Feedback Forms
- APARC Library user log
- In-depth individual reviews
- Supplemental Course Evaluation (AAS courses)
Challenges Asian American Students Face

- Isolation and lack of belonging
- Lack of representation and inclusion
- Microaggressions from students, staff, and faculty
- Lack of support
“Being a first-generation college student comes with its own unique set of questions and challenges. How do I balance pursuing my intellectual and professional goals while ensuring financial security not only for myself, but my family? Where do I find resources to have a successful first year? My biggest worry, like many other first-generation college students, is the fear of failure. This fear has always stuck with me, even before attending a university — the fear that no matter how hard I try, I might fail, and with that, be the first to fail.”
“For me personally, I grew up in a town where the majority of the population was white and my graduation class of nearly 700 students was nearly all white as well. I would find solace in being surrounded by people of color and specifically, people of an Asian background. If I were given the chance to become a mentee this year, I know that I would be able to be much more myself and identify as the person I truly am: a female Asian-American who just wants to proudly represent her culture.”

“The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is a predominantly white institution for me this means that I will once again be surrounded by people who do not understand me. I came from a mainly white high school as well and people could not comprehend my culture or my background. ASPIRE seems like the place where there is a sense of community and an emphasis on respecting people’s different backgrounds.”
“I hope to feel more closely connected to my Asian identity. Moving from the Philippines to the United States, I've always tried to stay true to my culture and take pride within my identity. However, it's not always easy to do so when faced with prejudice in our country and at times, college campuses.”

“I know that my Asian heritage will always be part of my identity, and it can be hard to embrace it sometimes without a sense of belonging.”

1st Year Asian American Student Experiences
“I want to tackle a few inquiries I have about who I am and I think this mentorship program will provide me with more than enough insight to create a beautiful and riveting story. Through this program, I hope to not only learn more about my identity, but take that information to teach the younger generations about finding their own identity as well. In addition, hopefully this program will help alleviate the internal pressure I place on myself to succeed.”
(1) How, if at all, does ASPIRE shape students’ Asian American consciousness?

(2) How, if at all, does ASPIRE prepare students to contribute to their communities and society?

(3) how does participation in ASPIRE shape students’ perceptions of the university?
Salient Elements of ASPIRE

● Culturally Familiar Space
  ○ Found value in a space where students do not have to explain their cultures, identities, etc.

● Sense of community
  ○ “Home away from home”
  ○ Can “be whole” while in college

● Resource networks

● Proactive and Holistic Support Systems
  ○ A critical support system

● Space for learning about critical issues
  ○ Challenged to think about issues affecting Asian American communities
  ○ Expressing through storytelling
Knowledge Acquisition

More complex understandings of diversity
  ○ More critical understanding of “diversity”, such as deeper awareness of how different groups have different struggles and needs

A better understanding of Asian American communities
  ○ Increased awareness of critical issues, such as data disaggregation, mental health, gender and sexism, and diversity within the Asian American category

Greater knowledge of oppression and privilege
  ○ Deep understanding of how systemic contexts shape individual experiences
  ○ How privilege works and how they internalized oppression and racism

Call-to-action to advocate for the FUTURE Act in support of funding for AANAPISIs and other MSIs
Identity Development

Stronger Asian American consciousness
- Develop racial identity
- Increased value in communities’ histories and heritages

Increased empowerment
- (Re)claim voice

Greater commitment to give back
- Pushing for greater representation

Capacity to serve
- Developing skills to navigate social justice conversations
### Steady Enrollment Increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning of Fall</th>
<th>AAPI Undergraduate Enrollment</th>
<th>Percentage of Undergraduate Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>4,038</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,862</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3,707</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3,511</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Rapid Growth of APARC Visits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Year</th>
<th>Visits</th>
<th>Percentage Growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2017 - Spring 2018</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>344.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018 - Spring 2019</td>
<td>3358</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2019 - Spring 2020* (as of 11/6/19)</td>
<td>1,712 (Current)</td>
<td>60.54% (End of Year Estimate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5391 (End of Year Estimate)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>7,180</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 2016-2017</td>
<td>Year 2 2017-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPI New Student Welcome</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPIRE Peer Mentoring</td>
<td>4 SC</td>
<td>4 SC, 22 Mentors; 24 Mentees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASPIRE Total Event Attendance</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAPI Speaker Series</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ripple effects of services
As a center, staff and students engages in series of discussions about how identities affected services, experienced increased consciousness of the role of race and culture in experiences, and acquired knowledge about barriers that Asian Americans experience to accessing resources (e.g., the model minority myth).

APARC’s existence served several purposes, including modeling leadership, making them feel less tokenized, increasing visibility of Asian Americans in general, instilling a sense of pride in them, increasing their confidence, and increasing their understanding of barriers for Asian Americans.
Serving as a symbolic space

Symbolic value of the APARC space. Campus staff mentioned that they were proud that the space existed, while several pointed out that the space is a symbol of the university's commitment to Asian Americans and legitimizes their realities and need for support.
Collaborating with other departments and programs, including:

- Department of Curriculum & Instruction
- Asian American Studies Program
- Women’s Center
- DirecTrack to Teaching
- Orientation and Transition Experiences
- Parent and Family Program
- National Student Exchange
- iMEN Initiative
- The Learning Abroad Center
- School of Social Work Admissions
- Academic and Career Advising (CLA & CEHD)
- Center for Writing
- SMART Commons
- Many student organizations
Funding Challenges and Uncertainties

- AANAPISI Part F grant funding has expired and not renewed
- Funds will expire October 2021
I Support AANAPISI Because... It empowers the community to do good things!

I Support AANAPISI Because... It feels like a second home.

I Support AANAPISI Because... I'll allow students to bond & build a community with each other.

I Support AANAPISI Because... It gives me a community where I can fully be myself.

I Support AANAPISI Because... This shows the community and support that I need in college.

I Support AANAPISI Because... Everyone deserves to find a community.

I Support AANAPISI Because... It's important for all people to have a community.

I Support AANAPISI Because... It's a supportive community for minority students.

I Support AANAPISI Because... I support push who are all about community...show love and believe in humanity. If it feels right, I'm right.

I Support AANAPISI Because... Some people need a nudge to go the right path.
I Support AANAPISI Because...

- They're my second family.
- My community is my second home, and without it, I will be incomplete.
- I feel at home.
- It supports me!
- It gives me support with a community that actually cares about me.
- Our education matters.
Questions?

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