



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

Dear Colleague:

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) is proud to partner with the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) and the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics to present a series of National Conversations about English learner education. We invite you to participate in the final two conversations in our series to be held simultaneously in New York City, New York and Charlotte, North Carolina on April 11-12, 2011.

Nearly one out of four Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students is Limited English Proficient (LEP) and/or lives in a linguistically-isolated household. The AAPI community is also one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the country and by 2050 will make up 9.2% of the U.S. population – approximately 40.6 million people. Also, nearly two-thirds of AAPIs are foreign born. As a result, America's success is directly related to its ability to educate diverse communities and encourage their engagement in the democratic process. Promoting engagement among diverse communities is why culturally and linguistically appropriate education is critical.

WHIAAPI recognizes having limited English proficiency slows student progress and prevents the full participation of multicultural communities in our democracy. Mandated by our Executive Order, Federal agencies have developed agency plans to ensure language access for LEP individuals, among other things. Last week, the Initiative presented a report of final agency plans to the President. See www.aapi.gov to view the report and learn more about these agency plans.

We encourage you to join this gathering of educators, advocates, and policy makers to voice your concerns and share innovative practices to develop quality English learner education. Members of our esteemed President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will be joining the National Conversation in New York City. Your participation in these meetings will inform national stakeholders and help direct education reform.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to your active involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kiran Ahuja".

Kiran Ahuja
Executive Director

NOTE: New York and
Charlotte rescheduled.
Join us May 9-10.