

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism

Date of Meeting: April 18, 2012

Agenda Item: Asian Youth Leadership Retreat Collaboration

- Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring
- Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

This project supports the strategic framework goal of ensuring an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans by collaborating with organizations that support underserved communities.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Ilean Her, Executive Director of Council on Asian Pacific Minnesota
Gao Ah Vang, Student at Minnesota State University, Mankato
Sam Herold, Student at Minneapolis Community and Technical College
Justen Gowing, Anoka Ramsey Community College
Thayeng Her, Alumni from Winona State University

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

A synopsis of the experience and outcomes of youth that have attended the collaborative Asian Youth Leadership retreat.

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INFORMATION ITEM

Asian Youth Leadership Retreat Collaboration

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Diversity and Equity division has collaborated with the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans to raise the participation and achievement of Asian American youths in post-secondary education by enhancing the knowledge and skills that correlate with post-secondary participation and success.

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans was created in 1985 to advise the governor and state legislators on issues pertaining to Asian Pacific people; ensure Asian Pacific Minnesotans are more incorporated and engaged in the governmental and policymaking process; see that residents of Asian Pacific descent have sufficient access to state governmental services; promote the talents and resources of the Asian Pacific people where appropriate; act as a broker between the Asian Pacific community in Minnesota and mainstream society.

The collaboration involved creating and operating a summer youth retreat focused on leadership development, higher education and civic engagement. Although focused on Asian American youth, participants and mentors were of all races and ethnicities. The retreat utilized speakers, workshops, and learning communities. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities students are utilized as mentors and facilitators.

Leadership Retreat Demographics 2009-2011

- Total youth participants: 143
- Unduplicated participants: 100
- Female: 68
- Male: 75
- Ages range: 14 – 19
- Ethnicities:
 - 4 racial groups
 - 13 different Asian ethnic groups
 - 35% of all participants were Hmong youth
 - 14% of all participants were from new immigrant communities

Educational Outcome

- Of the 100 participants served
 - 70 participants have not yet graduated from high school
 - 30 participants have graduated from high school
 - 24 participants are enrolled at an institution of higher education
 - 13 participants are at 4 years higher education institutions
 - 11 participants are at 2 years higher education institutions
 - 8 participants are enrolled at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institutions
 - 6 partnerships are currently not enrolled at any institution of higher education