

Dear campus colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to present this **“Bulletin Board in a Bag”**: **Asian-American Heritage Month** in your area this **May!**

In this packet, and any attached documents, you will find everything you need to **begin** a great bulletin board. The information presented was gathered by CME student staff from personal research unless stated otherwise. Past and future BBBs are posted on our Publications website:

[www.du.edu/cme/resources/publications.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/resources/publications.html)

### How to use

We've provided several flyer-sized pages of information, intended to get your board *started*. For the most part, the Board is just print and post ready. Color is obviously most eye-catching, but most of the graphics should be fine in black and white/grayscale if necessary. We strongly suggest researching and adding additional information that would be of most interest to your particular audience (relevant communities in home states/nations, campus/community activities that appeal to majors and hobbies); this can help expand the board and improve its impact.

You can also check, share and participate in upcoming events from various campus sources: the History & Heritage Month pages ([www.du.edu/cme/programs-services/heritage-months](http://www.du.edu/cme/programs-services/heritage-months)), DU Diversity Portal ([www.du.edu/diversity/events](http://www.du.edu/diversity/events)), the relevant Joint Council student organization ([www.du.edu/cme/programs-services/joint-council.html](http://www.du.edu/cme/programs-services/joint-council.html)), among others.

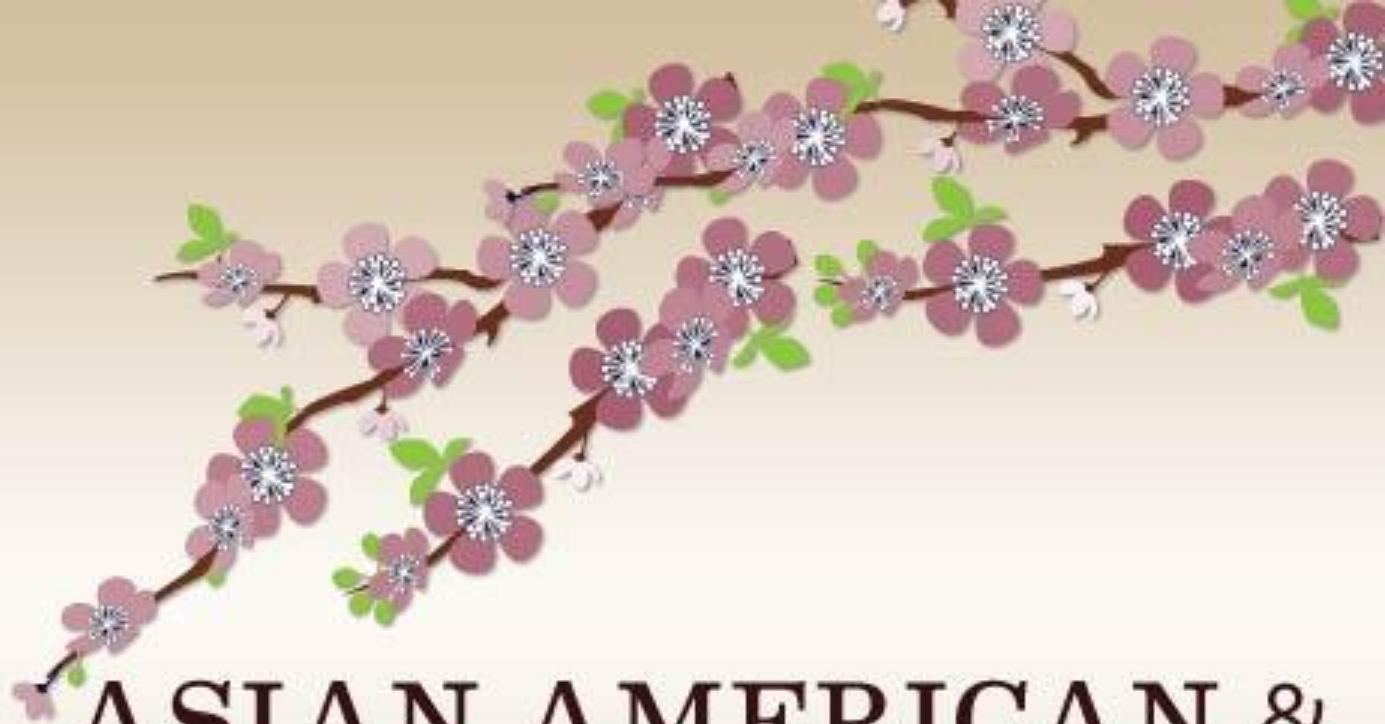
### Feedback

If you use the board, to help us know where our boards have been, and how audiences have responded to them, please email [igr@du.edu](mailto:igr@du.edu) with:

- Your name, hall and floor where the board is posted
- A photo or two of the board up
- A brief description of any reaction/feedback the board generated on your community,
- And any feedback you have about this board or ideas for other Inclusive Excellence-related identities/issues/observances we could provide for the future.

(And in the unfortunate event there's any defacement or other negative reaction to the board, please follow your hall's reporting procedures, and let us know.)

THANKS for sharing this important, and interesting, info with your audiences! [www.du.edu/cme](http://www.du.edu/cme) | [www.facebook.com/DUCME](https://www.facebook.com/DUCME)



**ASIAN AMERICAN &  
PACIFIC ISLANDER**  
heritage month

# What is a “Model Minority”?

A “model minority” is a bright, shining example of hard work and patience whose example other minority groups should follow.

In a lot of ways, Asian Americans have done remarkably well in achieving "the American dream" of getting a good education, working at a good job, and earning a good living. So much so that the image many have of Asian Americans is that they are the "model minority."

Many people go even further and argue that since Asian Americans are doing so well, they no longer experience any discrimination and that Asian Americans no longer need public services such as bilingual education, government documents in multiple languages, and welfare.

Many statistics show that Asian Americans are still the targets of racial inequality and institutional discrimination and that the model minority image is a myth.



# The “Model Minority” title is no honor

What the stats don't show is that a typical Asian American has to get more years of education just to make the same amount of money that a typical White makes with less education.

In the corporate world, Asian Americans are underrepresented as CEOs, board members, and high-level supervisors -- just like Blacks, Latinos, and American Indians.

The point is that just because many Asian Americans have "made it," it does not mean that all Asian Americans have made it. In many ways, Asian Americans are still the targets of much prejudice, stereotypes, and discrimination. For instance, the persistent belief that "all Asians are smart" puts a tremendous amount of pressure on many Asian Americans. Many, particularly Southeast Asians, are not able to conform to this unrealistic expectation and in fact, have the highest high school dropout rates in the country.



# Lest we forget about the past

## BEFORE THE “MODEL MINORITY:”

- Labor exploitation
- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882-1943)
- Japanese Internment Camps (1942 – 1946)
- U.S. Colonization of the Philippines (1898-1946)
- Race riots and race violence



# What was the Transcontinental RR?

The first Transcontinental Railroad covered over 2,000 miles of rugged terrain and built over 6 years, and thousands of laborers, including Irish, German, freed slaves, and Chinese immigrants were enlisted in the effort.

The Chinese teams were organized into groups of 20 under one white foreman; as the difficulty of construction increased, so often did the size of the gangs. Initially, Chinese employees received wages of \$27 and then \$30 a month, minus the cost of food and board. In contrast, Irishmen were paid \$35 per month, with board provided.

At one point 8,000 of 10,000 Central Pacific Laborers were Chinese. An estimated 1,200 Chinese died building the railroads, though some suspect this number is low given reports of railcars filled with Chinese bodies that emerged during that time.

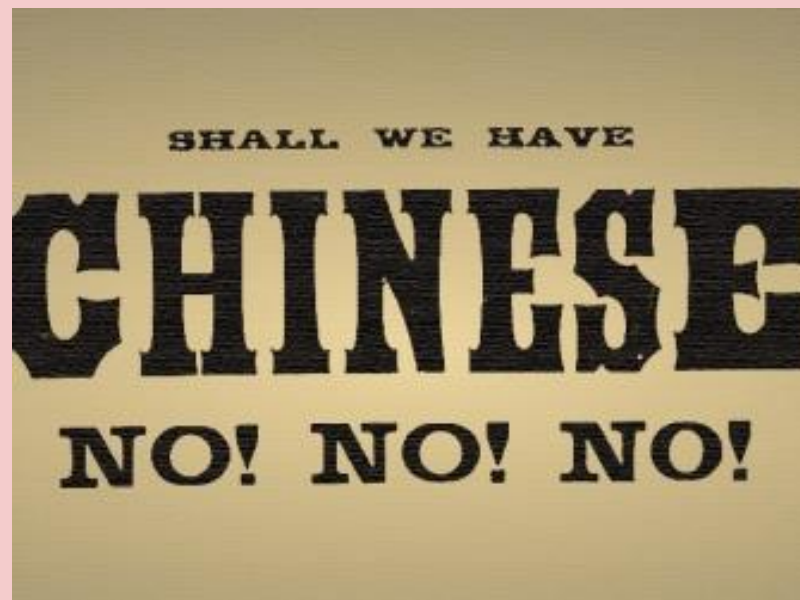


# Chinese Immigration

Due to the racial tensions between whites and Chinese immigrants, in the spring of 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed by Congress and signed by President Chester A Arthur. This act provided an absolute 10-year moratorium on Chinese labor immigration. For the first time, Federal law proscribed entry of an ethnic working group on the premise that it endangered the good order of certain localities.

Renewed several times over the years, the Chinese Exclusion Act was not repealed until 1943

Immigration increased following the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 that repealed quotas limiting immigration.



# Denver's race riots

On the afternoon of October 31, 1880, a mob descended on Denver's Chinatown. Within hours the mob destroyed businesses, residences, and killed one Chinese resident. Denver's riot was one of 153 anti-Chinese riots that swept through the American West during the 1870s and 1880s.

The Chinese had experienced discrimination and violence since 1849 when they first arrived in California. They were driven out of California mines by the "foreign miner's tax" and also experienced outright violence. By the late 1870s the anti-Chinese movement had entered national politics.

<http://plainshumanities.unl.edu/encyclopedia/doc/egp.asam.011>





# Japanese internment camps

Over 127,000 United States citizens were imprisoned during World War II. Their crime? Being of Japanese ancestry.

Despite the lack of any concrete evidence, Japanese Americans were suspected of remaining loyal to their ancestral land. anti-Japanese paranoia increased because of a large Japanese presence on the West Coast. In the event of a Japanese invasion of the American mainland, Japanese Americans were feared as a security risk.

Succumbing to bad advice and popular opinion, President Roosevelt signed relocation of all Americans of Japanese ancestry to concentration camps in the interior of the United States.

[www.ushistory.org/us/51e.asp](http://www.ushistory.org/us/51e.asp)

Over 7000 people, most US citizens, were interned at Camp Amache, located in southeast Colorado. Visit [amache.org](http://amache.org) for info.



# Microaggressions to be aware of

You're so exotic!

read: *You look so different from the "normal" or dominant ideal of beauty!*

Where are you from? No, but really from?

read: *You're clearly foreign because Americans don't look like you.*

You don't really seem that Asian!

read: *You don't fit the stereotype I had assumed and that's difficult to reconcile with my worldview.*

So, you're Chinese right?

read: *I assume Asians are all the same. I haven't taken the time to consider and learn about cultures and ethnicities such as Vietnamese, Hmong, Korean, Burmese...*



# Get Engaged on Campus

**Asian Student Alliance** focuses on the academic, political, and social aspects pertaining to the Asian Pacific American population on the DU campus through community events aimed at promoting political awareness and education, volunteering in the local community, and networking on campus, both with other student organization leaders and staff and/or faculty.

[facebook.com/groups/udenverasa](https://facebook.com/groups/udenverasa)

**Asian Studies program:** [www.du.edu/asianstudies](http://www.du.edu/asianstudies)

For other current student orgs, select “Cultural” at [www.du.edu/studentlife/engagement/get-involved/organizations-joining.html](http://www.du.edu/studentlife/engagement/get-involved/organizations-joining.html)



# Get Engaged in Denver

Asian-Pacific Development Center

[www.apdc.org](http://www.apdc.org)

Denver Asian American Pacific Islander  
Commission [denvergov.org](http://denvergov.org)

Asian Chamber of Commerce

[www.acccolorado.org](http://www.acccolorado.org)

Mile High Japanese American Citizen League

[milehighjacl.org](http://milehighjacl.org)

Other area orgs:

[www.awib.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.view](http://www.awib.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.view)  
[Page&pageID=833&nodeID=1](http://www.awib.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.view)

