Dear campus colleagues,

Thank you for choosing to present the IEE “Bulletin Board in a Bag”: Asian Pacific 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.

How to use
We’ve provided several flyer-sized pages of information, intended to get your board started; researching and adding additional information that would be of most interest to your particular residents (relevant communities in their home states/nations, campus/community activities that appeal to their majors and hobbies) can help expand the board and improve its impact.

For the most part, the Board is just print and post ready. If we had it available at the time of publication, we’ve also included or attached information about campus/community events observing this month, that you can post as well. If there aren’t any, you can check campus calendars such as the Diversity Portal (www.du.edu/diversity) or IEE (www.du.edu/studentlife/ie-education/) for opportunities you can add to your Board. And, consider making attending one of these events a program for your floor!

Feedback
To help us know where our boards have been, and how residents have responded to them, please email us (igr@du.edu) any/all of the following:

· Your name, hall and floor where the board is posted
· A photo or two of the board up on your floor
· A brief description of any reaction/feedback the board generated on your floor 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 residents!
Sincerely,

Inclusion and Equity Education

www.du.edu/studentlife/ie-education/
facebook.com/IEedDU
May is

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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How did Asian Pacific American Heritage Month begin?

- In June 1977, Reps. Horton and Mineta introduced a House resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage week. The following month, Senators Inouye and Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed and on October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

- In 1990, President Bush signed a bill passed by Congress to extend the week-long celebration to a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

- The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

http://apaics.org/apa-heritage-month/
What was the Transcontinental RR?

The first Transcontinental Railroad covered over 2,000 miles of rugged terrain and was built over 6 years. 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.

www.pbs.org/wgbh/amERICANEXPERIENCE/features/general-article/tcrr-cprr/
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.

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

www.asian-nation.org/model-minority.shtml
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 under-represented 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.

www.asian-nation.org/model-minority.shtml
What is “Yellow Fever?”

- No, not the vector-borne virus…
- Yellow fever is the fetishization of Asian women due to their “submissive” characteristics.
- What, you might ask, is wrong with being attracted to certain ‘looks’? After all, some people are attracted to blondes, redheads or Swedes. But this particular brand of attraction leaves many Asian and Asian American women uncomfortable – and angry. The syndrome of Yellow Fever can range from mild preference to outright vulgarity, and is worthy of examination.


Why is “Yellow Fever” different than “having a type”? 

- Most people with Yellow Fever know they have Yellow Fever. They know they are more attracted to those of Asian ethnicity, but they are often unclear why. They might casually attribute it to looks, but when you probe more deeply, many can admit fascinations with Asian culture, or that they harbor stereotypes about Asians, stereotypes which are blatantly racist, misogynist, and devaluing.

- In this view, Asian women especially are viewed as submissive, man-pleasing ‘sex kittens,’ and are perceived to be less aggressive, more docile, self-sacrificing and more obedient. They are perceived as less likely to challenge their partners and be compliant.

- This is different than having a type because it is not just someone preferring certain traits over others; this is a fetish that is deeply rooted in prejudice, where Asian women are expected to act a certain way because they have Asian features.

Historical discrimination against Asian Americans

- 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

Getting involved on campus and in the community, to learn more about the diverse communities under the Asian, Asian American, Pacific Islander umbrella

Avoid microaggressions such as:

- 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…)

How can we better fight against this racism?

http://www.buzzfeed.com/hnigatu/racial-microagressions-you-hear-on-a-daily-basis#.tiBeK3kyE
Asian Student Alliance
The University of Denver Asian Student Alliance (ASA) 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

DU Asian Studies program
www.du.edu/ahss/areasofstudy/joint_dual_programs/asian_studies
Where can I get involved in Denver?

Asian-Pacific Development Center: community-based nonprofit serving AAPI residents in Colorado. (www.apdc.org)

Denver Asian Pacific American Commission: support liaison and facilitator between AAPI community and Mayor of Denver’s office

Denver Asian Professionals Meetup group: part of National Association of Asian American Professionals (www.meetup.com/NAAAPCO)

Far East Center: 333 S. Federal Blvd. Hub of Southeast Asian restaurants and businesses. The Vietnamese are the largest of Denver’s Asian ethnic groups.