

June 3, 2020

Dear Campus Colleagues:

The Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees (CAPE), supports African American/Black students, African American/Black staff, African American/Black lives. CAPE supports Resolution 20.5, recently passed by the Academic Senate.

In order to move the college to a more equitable space and meet our students where they need us to be, we call on Pasadena City College to review and remove barriers to learning that have been inherent in our institution. These barriers include, but are not limited to, the hiring of equity-minded, anti-racist faculty, staff, and managers; the designing of equity-minded course syllabi; the training of PCC cadets in expressing kindness and courtesy; and the training of all employees on implicit and explicit bias.

CAPE also is committed to doing the work needed within its own community to review and remove barriers to learning. First and foremost, that means learning about a long history of anti-blackness within the APIDA (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American) community as well as its history of coalition-building with other communities of color. Beginning this summer, CAPE is planning to hold learning communities on anti-blackness, so that APIDA PCC employees recognize how anti-blackness emerges in their own lives and roles on campus and unlearn this prejudice. These learning communities also will help us to focus on our common goals and shared sources of oppression in society with the African American/Black community.

In 1944, Esther Takei Nishio became the first Japanese American to return to the West Coast from World War II internment camps. That school was Pasadena Junior College, now known as Pasadena City College. Despite being met with racial hostility, Esther took classes at PCC because she knew that education was a way to improve herself and her community. In the spirit of trailblazers like Esther who took action, CAPE makes this call to action.

In solidarity,
The Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees, CAPE