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According to LEAP, Asian and Pacific Islanders Remain Absent from Foundation Boards

76 % of the top 100 foundations lack Asian and Pacific Islander representation on their boards

Washington, D.C., September 30, 2010 – Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) unveils the findings of its newest leadership series report measuring Asian and Pacific Islander (API) inclusion on the boards of the top 100 foundations.

“Less than a quarter of the largest 100 foundations in the United States have Asian and Pacific Islander representation on their boards, said J.D. Hokoyama, LEAP’s President and CEO. “Even more disconcerting is the fact that no foundation in the top 100 is headed by a president, executive director and/or CEO of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.”

Key Findings

In 2010, 36 Asian and Pacific Islanders held 37 board seats at 24 foundations in the top 100 grant making U.S. foundations. APIs constitute 5.6% of the U.S. population and its buying power is projected to climb to \$696.5 billion by 2014.

- There are 36 APIs that hold 37 board seats at 24 of the top 100 foundations.
- There is no API heading a foundation in the role of executive director, president and/or CEO.
- The 37 board seats represent 4.95% of the total 748 board seats in the top 100 foundations.
- The ethnic breakdown of these API board of directors is as follows: Chinese (13), Japanese (8), Asian Indian (6), Korean (3), Filipino (2), Vietnamese (2), Singaporean (1) and Thai (1).
- Twelve (33.33%) out of the 36 API directors are women.
- One API director sits on more than one foundation board: Irene Hirano Inouye.
- There are two API directors serving as chairman of the board: Tessie Guillermo (The California Endowment) and Irene Hirano Inouye (The Ford Foundation).
- Seven of the top 100 foundations have 2 or more API directors on their board: The Ford Foundation (3), The California Endowment (3), The Rockefeller Foundation (4), The Silicon Valley Community Foundation (4), The James Irvine Foundation (2), The San Francisco Foundation (2) and The Commonwealth Fund (2).
- The Rockefeller Foundation has 25% API representation on its board of trustees, the highest percentage of any foundation in the top 100.

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About Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs):

There are several terms that are used referring to this community: Asian, Asian American, Asian Pacific Islander, Asian Pacific Islander American and Asian Pacific American, to name a few. There are two major groups that comprise the community: Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. The U.S. Census Bureau defines the *Asian* category as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent”, which includes over 20 ethnic groups. The *Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander* category is defined as “a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.”

People of Asian and Pacific Islander descent make up more than half the world’s population and 5.6 percent (17.1 million) of the total U.S. population making it one of the fastest-growing groups in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2008 American Community Survey, the largest Asian groups in the U.S. include: Chinese (23.70%), Filipino (20.20%), Asian Indian (17.83%), Vietnamese (11.31%), Korean (10.53%) and Japanese (8.50%).

About LEAP:

Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) is a national organization founded in 1982 with a mission to achieve full participation and equality for Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) through leadership, empowerment and policy. With original programs in leadership training, public policy research and community education, LEAP raises the impact and visibility of APIs in all sectors. LEAP is headquartered in Los Angeles and has an office in Washington, DC.

Under its leadership research initiative, LEAP is producing a series of research reports to evaluate and measure API representation at the highest leadership levels in corporations, foundations, nonprofits and higher education.

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