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Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders: Building Community in US Higher Education

Panel Overview

This session focuses on the stereotypes and misconceptions, as well as recent initiatives to address the issues of Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) diversity, rapid growth, and inequality in US postsecondary education. When Charles Dickens wrote (1859), it was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . . it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, it is unlikely he was thinking about AAPIs in 21st century US. Yet, this paradoxical statement explains the context in which concerned US postsecondary educators and policymakers now find themselves. There is need to seek greater voice and visibility for AAPIs in US higher education. The racial stereotype of AAPIs as model minorities who achieve universal and unparalleled academic and career success continues in the minds of US higher education leaders, creating misconceptions of AAPIs and dismissal of their needs and interests, which some believe may be symbolic of an even larger systemic racial exclusion. (Paraphrased from Museus, S. D. (2013), p.1).