Asian and Asian American Divide: Bridging the Gap

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Introductions

- Michelle Bringas, Asian American Center
- Christina Carpio, Assistant Asian American Center
- Shiraz Tata, Counseling & Student Development Center
- Chandan Bhagia, Counseling & Student Development Center
Learning Outcomes

As a result of this workshop, participants will:

1. Identify common stereotypes and labels used among Asian international students and Asian American students.

2. Learn about strategies at NIU that are intended to build community between and bridge the gap between these two communities.

3. Will learn about the assessment outcomes of these strategies.
Asian and Asian American Divide

- [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72rUJLN2Bxw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72rUJLN2Bxw)  Asian American Divide
Discussion of Labels

1. What are your reactions to the video?
2. What character did you relate with?
3. Have you had experiences of labeling or being labeled? If so, how did it feel?
4. What happened at the end of the video to change the relationship?
5. What can we do to help remove labels?
Strategies: Chai Chat

• Development of Chai Chat

• Purpose of Chai Chat

• Design of Chai Chat

• Collaboration Partners for Chai Chat
Strategies: Chai Chat

• Purpose
  – To provide a space for both Asian American and International Asian students to discuss their college experience and promote social interaction amongst diverse student groups.
  
  – To enhance awareness of mental health services (e.g., CSDC) as well as other student success oriented services offered on campus.

  – To promote an informal dialogue of mental health concerns experienced within the Asian American and International Asian student population. The purpose to do so in an informal manner was to reduce the impact of stigma often found within this population associated with seeking mental health services, while attending to their most immediate mental health needs.
Strategies Chai Chat

• Design
  - Held at CLB 100 – central location
  - Involve various offices and our trainees
  - Some open time to eat and meet
  - Some structured ice-breakers and/or discussion questions to facilitate interactions in small and large groups
  - Evaluations/assessments to get an idea of students’ needs and ideas
Assessment: Chai Chat

Assessment Results: 25 students turned in evaluations (CC-2)

- Most respondents indicated that what they enjoyed about the event was *meeting people*
- As a result of the program, respondents indicated a 3.96 score on a 5 point Likert Scale that they *felt more connected with people at NIU*
- As a result of the program, respondents indicated a 3.48 score on a 5 point Likert Scale that they *learned about some resources*
- As a result of the program, respondents indicated a 3.88 score on a 5 point Likert Scale that they *were able to share their ideas and needs*
Assessment: Chai Chat

- 88% of the respondents indicated that they identified as an international student
- 80% of the respondents indicated that they would be interested in *planning programs for international students*
- 88% of the respondents indicated that they would get together to chat about how things are going *at an informal gathering*
- 44% respondents indicated that they would get together to chat about how things are going *at a structured workshop*
Strategies: Summit/Retreat

• How it came about

• Purpose

• Design

• Collaboration Partners
Purpose

• To begin to build bridges between Asian international and Asian American student communities at NIU;

• To enhance inclusive environment for Asian international students;

• To provide leadership development opportunities
Collaboration Partners

- Diversity & Equity
- Career Services
- Counseling & Student Development Center
- Network of Nations
Design

- Two Leadership Summits, Capitol Room
- Overnight Retreat, Walcamp
  - Ice Breakers
  - Team Builders/Community Builders
  - Leadership Activities
  - Youtube Video
  - Panel Discussion
  - Affirmations
Assessment: Retreat

N= 20, Average score a on 4.0 scale:

1. I feel a stronger connection within the Asian community, 3.9 out of 4.0
2. I feel valued, 3.9 out of 4.0
3. I can identify my leadership style, 3.7 out of 4.0
4. I have a greater awareness of my leadership skills based upon my self-assessment, 3.85 out of 4.0
5. I learned how to effectively collaborate with others, 3.7 out of 4.0
6. I am more aware of the labels used for Asian International students and Asian Americans, 3.85 out of 4.0
7. I learned how to set S.M.A.R. T. goals, N/A (Ran out of time)
8. I took the opportunity to develop my leadership skills, 4.0 out of 4.0
9. I developed meaningful relationships, 4.0 out of 4.0
10. I have a better understanding of my role as a leader at NIU, 4.0 out of 4.0
Next Steps: NIU

- 100%, Change the name of the Asian American Center to be more inclusive
- 100%, Create more opportunities for Asian International students & Asian American students to interact with each other
- 100%, Form a core group of students to plan events
- 100%, Conduct outreach efforts to Asian International student organizations
- 100%, Provide educational workshops to deepen understanding about Asian International students' experience
- 100%, Develop Peer Mentor Program for Asian International students & Asian American Students
- Other (please specify)
Next Steps: Individual Commitments

- 76.92 %, Attend "Chai Chat"
- 76.92%, Visit the Cultural Cafe on a Friday Night
- 84.63%, Attend other joint events
- 69.23, Participate with a team of students to plan events
- 69.23%, Assist a staff member or intern with outreach
- 61.54%, Help develop educational workshops
- 46.15%, Propose new names for the Asian American Center
- 7.69%, Not sure yet
- Other (please specify): No additional suggestions
What insights do you have for NIU to strengthen our Asian and Asian International community?
THANK YOU!

Questions?