

To: PAC big listserv

Subject: Pan Asian Council Winter Letter

Dear members, supporters, allies, and friends:

Wintertime greetings to you all! As we close out the long year of 2020, the Pan Asian Council wishes our community members health, healing, and love.

This past year has been a reckoning. It was a test of our strength and willingness to persevere with compassion still in hand and heart. Too many in our communities have [lost too many loved ones to COVID-19](#). Too many in our communities have suffered too much [racist hate and violence](#). Make no mistake: the biggest hurdles in our journey toward equity and justice lie ahead.

And yet many more in our communities have risen to meet this moment with fortitude and kindness, to lead us into engagement, representation, and empowerment. We are honored to recognize Kamala Harris as the first woman, mixed race, south Asian American, Black person to hold the office of Vice President of the United States. Likewise, we offer our congratulations to [Hai Huynh](#), first Asian American City Council member for the city of Coralville; and to Michelle Steel (R-CA), Young Kim (R-CA), and Marilyn Strickland (D-WA), the first Korean-American women elected to Congress. Finally, we amplify organizations like [18 Million Rising](#), whose work will help bring APIDA communities [to the fore of political voting forces](#).

## **Announcements and Celebrations!**

### **Congratulations to our own Bria Marcelo for Board of Regents Staff Excellence Award**

As the director of Diversity Resources and Strategic Initiatives, the liaison between PAC and DDEI, and our friend, we are pleased that Bria received this tremendous award from the Board of Regents. PAC is fortunate to have Bria in our community, and we proudly honor her.

*Appreciations to Bria from some of our PAC members:*

- "In Bria we find the rare balanced combination of intellectual brilliance, empathetic strength, and humble integrity. Thank you, Bria, for all the ways you uplift your communities."
- "Thank you, Bria, for the support that you have provided, not just to the PAC community, but the BIPOC communities in general for a year like this. Thank you!"
- "Thank you for bringing your light and vibrant energy to the numerous programs/projects/roles you serve on for our campus community, Bria! I am so grateful for the opportunity to work and think alongside you!"
- "Congratulations on your well-deserved honor, Bria! Thank you for all you have done for faculty, staff, and student on campus as well as the Iowa City-area community."

### **Diversity Council Coalition enthusiastically supports the Native American Council's Acknowledgement of Land and Sovereignty**

We use Land Acknowledgements to honor Indigenous folx. And let us also consider next steps of reconciliation and moving toward action for healing relations. The Native American Council encourages us all to stay mindful and intentional about the ways we are using Land

Acknowledgements and recognize that some Indigenous people oppose the use of Land Acknowledgements because they are being used as a DEI trend. Proclaiming this acknowledgement of Indigenous land and sovereignty is a mighty start, but our work does not end there. Let us be in conversation and dialog with one another to decolonize our relations work toward healing.

*The University of Iowa is located on the homelands of the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe (Chippewa), Báxoǰe (Iowa), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Omāēqnomenēwak (Menominee), Myaamiaki (Miami), Nutachi (Missouri), Umo<sup>o</sup>ho<sup>o</sup> (Omaha), Wahzhazhe (Osage), Jiwere (Otoe), Odawaa (Ottawa), Pó<sup>o</sup>ka (Ponca), Bodéwadmi/Neshnabé (Potawatomi), Meskwaki/Nemahahaki/Sakiwaki (Sac and Fox), Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda (Sioux), Sahnish/Nuxbaaga/Nuweta (Three Affiliated Tribes) and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Nations. The following tribal nations, Umo<sup>o</sup>ho<sup>o</sup> (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa), Pó<sup>o</sup>ka (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), Meskwaki (Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa), and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) Nations continue to thrive in the State of Iowa and we continue to acknowledge them. As an academic institution, it is our responsibility to acknowledge the sovereignty and the traditional territories of these tribal nations, and the treaties that were used to remove these tribal nations, and the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution since 1847. Consistent with the University's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, understanding the historical and current experiences of Native peoples will help inform the work we do; collectively as a university to engage in building relationships through academic scholarship, collaborative partnerships, community service, enrollment and retention efforts acknowledging our past, our present and future Native Nations.*

**The [Asian Pacific American Cultural Center](#) would like to thank everyone** who creates a community of support for AAPI students on campus and virtually. We appreciate you logging onto events, following our platforms, and offering care and encouragement. We hope to stay involved with you all next semester. If you have any interests in creating or working on programs, email [prisma-ruacho@uiowa.edu](mailto:prisma-ruacho@uiowa.edu)

**Applications for the [2021-2022 Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Achievement Award](#) due Jan. 31**  
The Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is pleased to announce the 2021-2022 administration of the Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr., Achievement Award. This award was created to honor Erroll B. Davis, Jr. and his nearly 30 years of service to the utility industry and to honor and recognize the importance of scholarship and leadership by underrepresented minority students in the state of Iowa.

*You don't choose the times you live in, but you do choose who you want to be.  
And you do choose how you think.  
~ [Grace Lee Boggs](#)*



[ID: dark background with eight boxes of Zoom images of Pan Asian Council members and Councilor Huynh. Yellow box with title reads UI Pan Council Leadership and Coralville City Councilor Huynh.]

Though it seems like a different time, we remember that 2020 began with sharing space together, celebrating the genesis of this council and the possibilities inherent in our collective solidarity. We head into 2021 hopeful that positive changes can occur, and we are committed to continuing our work in advancing issues critical to our communities.

We wish everyone good health, a relaxing winter break, and a Happy New Year!

In community,

Pan Asian Council