

## Chairman's Message



Welcome to MAPAAC's inaugural newsletter! MAPAAC is a 21- member commission, comprised of commissioners of different ethnicities and various walks of life who are appointed by the Governor to advance the participation of Asians and Pacific Islanders in building an inclusive and

diverse Michigan that is open and welcome to all.

MAPAAC and the State of Michigan value the Asian Pacific American (APA) communities, and our goal is to build a prosperous and harmonious society. We maintain close relationships with our APA strategic partners to serve the APA community at large by encouraging collaboration and participation of all APA organizations; and advocating state government agencies to provide resources and information on civil rights, health, mental health and elderly care, education on business growth and other concerns that are important to our APA residents.

Some MAPAAC activities include: the Fred T. Korematsu recognition programs for students in high schools and universities to educate and raise awareness of civil rights; our annual Asian Pacific American Day at the Capitol where APAs visit with the legislators and celebrate the culture, traditions, and accomplishments of APAs in Michigan; Open House Forums with state agency representatives to educate the APAs on state programs and services; Capacity Building and Fund Development workshops to educate APA organizations on developing or enhancing their funding resources to serve their communities; and our Recognition and Appreciation Dinner, to honor the contributions of APAs and to engage state,

county and local public officials, state department directors and APA organization leaders to create a harmonious society.

MAPAAC participates in the **APA Legislative Caucus** to share our community needs and concerns and to develop joint strategies in addressing the needs of APAs in Michigan. In addition, MAPAAC collaborates with the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, Commission of Middle Eastern American Affairs and MONA on legislative issues and immigration/refugee concerns that would impact our communities.

In this newsletter, you will read articles about some of our activities along with State of Michigan and legislative issues that may interest you.

If you would like to get in touch with us, please contact Denise Yee Grim, MAPAAC Outreach Coordinator, at [mapaac@michigan.gov](mailto:mapaac@michigan.gov).

To learn more about MAPAAC, please visit us at [www.michigan.gov/mapaac](http://www.michigan.gov/mapaac).

-Jamie Hsu, Ph.D.

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# Michigan Seal of Biliteracy Program

The Michigan Seal of Biliteracy program was launched in 2018 to acknowledge and recognize High School graduates that exhibit language proficiency in English and at least one other world language. The seal may be awarded to any student that has received a high school diploma, a high school certificate of completion or a high school equivalency certificate that has demonstrated high proficiency on acceptable world language assessments and met English Arts requirements for graduation or demonstrated proficiency on validated tests of proficiency for English learners.

The seal has been created to encourage students to study world languages and embrace their native languages. The seal will provide employers with a way to identify individuals with strong language and biliteracy skills. The seal may serve as an additional tool for colleges and universities to recognize applicants language abilities for admission and placement.

## Top 10 in 10

Michigan joins 27 other states and the District of Columbia in awarding a Seal of Biliteracy (Davin & Heineke, 2017). In Michigan's journey to becoming a top ten performing state in ten years, awarding the Seal of Biliteracy aligns to the goals and strategies of this endeavor. This policy was developed with each of the seven goals in mind, reference to the goals can be found in the Purpose and Rationale section of the policy. To read the policy, please visit [bit.ly/2KDbqF2](http://bit.ly/2KDbqF2).

The Michigan Department of Education recommends that a student's proficiency be tested for the purpose of awarding the seal beginning his/her second semester of their junior year through the end of the first semester of their senior year. Note that students tested in their senior year may not receive test results until summer of their graduating year. As a result, the seal will be

awarded retroactively following graduation.

For more information, please visit [bit.ly/2KahQeR](http://bit.ly/2KahQeR).



## Michigan Ethnic Commissions Promote Justice for the Children

As members of the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan, the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, and the Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs, we are concerned for the health and welfare of all children in Michigan.

We understand the difficult nature of the situation that has unfolded at the Southern border with children being separated from their parents. The three ethnic commissions continue to be engaged with the Michigan Office for New Americans to receive updates, and we understand that state government agencies are providing services, to the extent permissible by federal and state law.

We are committed to ensuring that every child in Michigan is provided with safe and humane living conditions, and we have every confidence in the organizations that are providing quality services to the children placed in their care. We also understand that each unaccompanied child is receiving a legal assessment.

Justice for the children is what we all strive for; however, we are also greatly concerned about the privacy for each child. There are strict federal policies around providing any type of identifying information about the children. Often, human traffickers try to take advantage of children in this type of situation, so keeping identifying information confidential is of the utmost importance. We respectfully ask that individuals and the media refrain from publishing any identifying details for the safety and well-being of the children.

## MAPAAC Supports Legislation for Foreign-born Visitors to Travel throughout Michigan

Under a new state law, additional foreign driver's licenses are now valid in Michigan with the requirement that all nonresident drivers with foreign licenses must carry an English translation of their license. The Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (MAPAAC) supported the legislation that resulted in [Public Act 138, 2016](#).



“Michigan continues to be one of the most welcoming states to people from around the world,” said MAPAAC Chair Jamie Hsu, Ph.D. “This law enables foreign-born visitors to more easily travel throughout our great state.”

Prior to the legislation, only driver's licenses from specific “treaty” countries were considered valid for foreign-born visitors to drive a car in Michigan. Licenses from “non-treaty” countries are now recognized as valid provided the driver can prove “legal presence” in the United States. Previously, licenses from non-treaty countries like China were not recognized in Michigan. Nonresidents who have a license from a “treaty country” and it is in English or have a translation, are driving legally in Michigan. Nonresidents who have a license from a “non-treaty” country,

must possess a valid passport, a valid visa, or other valid documents to verify their legal presence in the U.S. and a translation -- if their license is not in English.

All drivers with foreign licenses that are not in English are now required to have the license translated into English with a document from their home country called an “International Driving Permit” or “IDP.” For individuals who cannot get that document, a translation that has similar information is required. Anyone fluent in both languages relevant to the license can do the translation. There is no requirement in the law that a translator have any particular certification.

For more information, please visit [bit.ly/2M64ORn](http://bit.ly/2M64ORn).

## Photo Gallery

MAPAAC, LARA and MDCR hosted Fred T. Korematsu recognition events at Salem High School and Edsel Ford High School to educate the students on the life of Fred T. Korematsu and his journey in becoming a national civil rights hero on Jan. 30 and Feb 2, 2018. The panel speakers were Dr. Jamie Hsu, MAPAAC, Roland Hwang and Ron Aramaki, U-M Dept. of American Culture, Mary Kamidoi, Internment Camp Detainee-Camp-Rohwer, AR, and Dr. Agustin Arbulu, MDCR Director.



Speakers and Edsel Ford High School students



Fred Korematsu Presentation



Speakers and Salem High School APA Club

# Photo Gallery



## Mission

To advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) in the building of a greater Michigan.

## Commissioners

- Jamie Hsu, Ph.D., Chairman - Oakland County
- Mahima Mahadevan, Vice-Chair - Wayne County
- Grace Lee, Secretary - Oakland County
- Joseph Tasma, Trustee - Wayne County
- Asim Alavi - Washtenaw County
- Scott T. Ayotte, J.D. - Kent County
- Anthony Chang, Ph.D. - Kent County
- Hoa T. Dinh - Macomb County
- Mi Kyung Dong - Wayne County
- Sharon Dow - Oakland County
- Lisa Gray - Wayne County
- Jin-Kyu Koh - Wayne County
- Kavy Lenon - Ottawa County
- Toshiki Masaki - Wayne County
- Kaushik Nag - Kent County
- Ryan Rosario - Macomb County
- Aditya Sathi - Oakland County
- Jenny Wang - Washtenaw County

## APA Day at the Capitol

MAPAAC, APIA Vote-Michigan and LARA hosted 140 APAs at the State Capitol to visit with legislators and celebrate APA Heritage Day at the Capitol rotunda. There were special presentation to Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood and Rep. Sam Singh for their service and dedication to the APA community on May 2. Special thanks to our APA community leaders and individuals who made the trip from SE-Michigan and West Michigan to share their voices at the Capitol.



Proclamation presentation with Amina Ahmed, APIAVote-MI, Dr. Jamie Hsu, and Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood



Dr. Jamie Hsu with Sen. Hoon-Yung Hopgood, and Rep. Sam Singh



APA Day at the Capitol



Sen. Marty Knollenberg networking with Asian leaders

## Capacity Building & Fund Development Workshop

MAPAAC and the West Michigan Asian American Association hosted a Capacity Building and Fund Development workshop with Matthew Downey from Johnson Center on July 18, 2018 in Grand Rapids.



MAPAAC Commissioner Grace Lee opening the workshop with a welcoming remarks



Presenter Mr. Downey from Johnson Center



Capacity Building & Fund Development Workshop in Grand Rapids



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