

HEADS UP

UPDATES AND ISSUES

DIVERSITY AND
CIVIL RIGHTS



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May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

We have adopted many words from different cultures around the world that are used in our everyday communications. Take a look at just a few of these adopted words coming from the Asian/Pacific Islander family. Do you use the words karate, honcho, tycoon, chow, gung ho, kung fu, tattoo, luau, ketchup, and boondocks? If you do, then you have adopted some of the Asian/Pacific culture as part of who you are! Our everyday language is an amalgam of many languages which helps each of us to recognize our own multi-culturalism.

May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month which provides us another wonderful opportunity to recognize persons from these cultures who engage in Extension programs. May was selected for the recognition because two significant events in history took place in that month: Japanese immigrants first arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day). As we move into the 21st century, the United States continues to greatly benefit from the contributions of its diverse citizenry. Asian/Pacific Americans merit special recognition. Their achievements have greatly enriched our quality of life and have helped to determine the course of our nation's future. The Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos were the first Asians to arrive in the United States in large numbers. The Korean and Vietnam wars, the 1965 Immigration Act, and the desire for more highly skilled workers all prompted more immigration from other Asian countries. Today, Chinese are the largest Asian group in the United States, followed by Filipinos, Japanese, Indians, Koreans, and Vietnamese.

Facts from the U.S. Census – “Thought You Should Know”

14.0 million

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2004 who said they were Asian or Asian in combination with one or more other races. This group comprised 5% of the total population.

49%

The percentage of Asians, age 25 and older, who have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the country.

1.1 million

Number of businesses owned by Asian-Americans in 2002, up 24% from 1997.

2.3 million

The number of people age 5 and older who speak Chinese at home. After Spanish, Chinese is the most widely spoken non-English language in the country.

60%

The proportion of Asian households consisting of a married-couple family.

26%

The percentage of people on July 1, 2004, identifying themselves as either Asian, or Asian in combination with one or more other races who are under 18. (8% are 65 or older)

2.6%

The percentage of people in Utah who are Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders

<http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/NEWnativehawML1.html>