

Brief Report on the Asian American and Pacific Islander

Education Summit 2012 at Cal State East Bay

Saturday, May 19, 2012

The crowd was large, and the day was sun-washed and pleasant during our NPIEN-NC participation in the Summit at Cal State East Bay—Hayward Hills Campus. We—Soledad and Frank Santos (Soledad is the current President of our Northern California Chapter of NPIEN), and my daughters and I (Rafaella and Jacqueline DeTorres), manned a college and resources fair table in the New University Union Walkway (outdoors), while several workshops went on throughout the morning and afternoon. Laty Johnson, one of our key NPIEN-NC members was one of the Cal State East Bay hostesses, and scampered everywhere throughout the affair in her capacity as one of the planners/initiators/coordinators of the Summit. We met the President—Dr. Morishita, and several other participants in the opening/introductory session, including Steve Arounsack, one of the main speakers during the session.

After breaking from the opening introductory session, both students and parents left to attend several workshops focused on several relevant Asian American and Pacific Islander issues and concerns, i.e., “College: Making it Happen;” “How to pay for College;” Student Programs/Benefits of Attending Community College;” “How to Get to College: An Overview of the CSU System;” “Gates Millennium Scholars Program and Asian Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund Opportunities;” a student panel that focused on connecting with CSU students, and how they prepared for college and chose their majors; a “Emerging Professionals Panel;” a session titled “Visualizing Culture Using Digital Media: An Interactive Session;” and a session that informed all about the Student Service Operation to Succeed program (SSOS).

Free water was provided to all throughout the day, and all gathered in line around 12:30 for the free lunch, sponsored by the university. Our table offered information on NPIEN, and the NC chapter. We also answered questions, and made available programs from our previous annual conferences. Other tables were set up and used by numerous educationally-related groups, organizations, and institutions; we were located next to a table manned by an outreach coordinator for the University of California—Berkeley. It was a most enjoyable and informative day, as we bathed in the warm sun, and listened to entertainment provided by CSU students; and of course my daughters (one who will be entering high school in the fall; and one who will take her sister’s place in middle school) enjoyed checking both the tables and certain workshops out. They, however, enjoyed the morning refreshments and Noon-hour lunch, and the freedom to roam about the campus the most.

I am hopeful that NPIEN-NC will once again have an opportunity to participate in future summits hosted by CSU, and other Bay Area organizations/institutions. Our next chapter meeting will be held on July 14 at my Oakley, California residence.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Dr. Joseph L. DeTorres

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