Asian Pacific American Leadership Program

The Asian Pacific American Leadership (APAL) Project is a year-long writing, speaking, counseling and mentoring program designed for at-risk Asian students—refugees and recent immigrants from underdeveloped Southeast Asian countries. It is modeled after the successful design of the Puente Project, Avance and Enlace, model retention and transfer programs for Latino students and STAR and Daraja, for African Americans. Project activities include special orientation, speech and writing courses, a mentoring component, and two workshops for faculty, staff, and students. Project goals include the development of students' communication and English language skills needed for competing in the job market in areas in which they are underrepresented, namely in teaching at the elementary, secondary and community college level and in mid and higher level administrative positions, particularly in public service. It also intends to sensitize faculty to the special needs of this at-risk Asian population. The project addresses the Fund for Instructional Improvement's program development focus area--special learning needs of educationally disadvantaged students and seeks to advance the Board of Governors' Basic Agenda Priority of improving students' access and success, particularly in the basic skills area.