



**APIASF ADMINISTERS GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM
FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS**

WASHINGTON, DC – October 16, 2006 --The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) announced today that it signed an agreement with the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) to administer the Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) program for Asian and Pacific Islander American students. APIASF is the country's largest national organization devoted solely to the scholarship needs of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, provides outstanding low-income Asian and Pacific Islander American, African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in any discipline they choose. Continuing GMS Scholars may request a fellowship for a graduate degree program in one of the following disciplines areas: education, engineering, library science, mathematics, public health, or science. The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence by providing thousands of outstanding students with significant financial need the opportunity to realize their full potential.

Robert Underwood, former United States Congressman and Chairman of the Board of APIASF, said, "This is a significant milestone in APIASF's short history. We are extremely pleased to be recognized as a GMS partner for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans by the United Negro College Fund. It is with great pride that we join the

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ranks of other national scholarship organizations and express our appreciation to UNCF and the other GMS partners, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and the American Indian Graduate Center Scholars, for their guidance and support in establishing APIASF.”

The announcement follows the recent success of APIASF’s inaugural fundraising event, the “Today’s Minds, Tomorrow’s Future SM” gala held in New York City on September 14th, which raised more than half a million dollars for the Fund. At the gala, OCA (The Organization of Chinese Americans) was recognized for its role in developing and administering GMS/APIA for the past six years and for its partnership in building APIASF.

APIASF’s President and Executive Director, T. Kamuela Chun, was involved in the development of both APIASF and GMS/APIA. He ensures the continued success of the GMS/APIA program and its scholars.

About APIASF

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the primary national organization that promotes the pursuit of higher education among Asian and Pacific Islander Americans by distributing scholarships to qualified first-year undergraduate college, university, and vocational school students. Established in 2003, APIASF earned the support of major corporations including AT&T, the Asian McDonald’s Operators Association, The Coca-Cola Company, Macy’s, the General Mills Foundation, the Hilton Hotels Corporation, the IW Group, McDonald’s USA, LLC, and

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Wells Fargo, all of which participated in establishing the organization. Additional generous supporters include Abercrombie & Fitch, the Boston Consulting Group, the Citigroup Foundation, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, Enterprise Rent A Car, Federal Express, the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation, MetLife Foundation, Nationwide, Nissan North America, Pacific Gas & Electric, Sodexo, Southern California Edison, Southwest Airlines, Target, Toyota, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and Washington Mutual.

National community organizations including the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS), OCA, the Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC), and the University of Hawai'i were members of the original "Working Group" that established APIASF.

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