



November 24, 2015

**Letter of Support for Asian American Studies Enhancement at Northwestern University**

We write as Members of the Board of Directors of the Association for Asian American Studies.

We support the students at Northwestern University in their pursuit of an enhanced Asian American Studies curriculum and program, which includes offering a major in Asian American Studies. Establishing a major would provide students with the opportunity to receive a degree that would enhance their careers and make invaluable contributions to the university curriculum.

The Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) was founded in 1979 for the purpose of advancing the highest professional standard of excellence in teaching and research in the field of Asian American Studies. The AAAS is also founded for the purpose of educating American society about the cultural, economic, political, and social history of Asian Americans. The AAAS sponsors professional activities to facilitate increased intellectual exchanges and scholarly collaboration among scholars, administrators, researchers, teachers, students, and community leaders in the field of Asian American Studies.

As members of AAAS, we have extensive experience conducting research, publishing, and teaching in the field of Asian American Studies. In our role as Board Members and as university professors, we have witnessed first-hand the ways in which Asian American Studies has enhanced the educational experiences and career aspirations of students across the country. Asian American Studies:

- creates new intellectual avenues for students to learn about and navigate increasingly diverse educational and work environments
- allows students to develop critical analytic skills by presenting alternative perspectives on citizenship, belonging, and representation
- signals to potential employers that students understand a broad range of experiences related to immigration history as well as ethnic and racial relations

Not only do Asian American students benefit from exposure to Asian American Studies courses and programs, but a robust Asian American Studies program gives all students, including those who are non-Asian American, the opportunity to learn more about race and society through an Asian American lens.

Sincerely,

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