

Progress and Status of a National Leadership Conversation  
Date: Mon, Sep 26, 2022 at 12:43 PM

Dear Asian American colleagues,

Thank you for reading [our initial email](#) offering the idea of establishing a national discussion and support group for Asian American higher education leaders. Not only has the response been positive, we have also received the attention of some national education groups and some media. Clearly the main response is “let’s get this going” and/or “I want to participate”. We did hear from some “veterans” who wished such a group existed when they first became a senior administrator.

With President Frank Wu’s help, he connected us to the Asian American/Asian Research Institute at the City University of New York (Dr. Soniya Munshi, Director) for possibly sponsoring or helping coordinate our first national meeting. They have agreed, and we are thankful to Frank and to Soniya. This does not mean we will stop seeking other national sponsors as we move forward. With organizing in mind, a core group will meet in NY this November to discuss agenda items, possible dates and other organizational issues for a potential first national meeting during spring semester 2023. We have no idea whether it will be face to face, zoom or a hybrid. We hope to “start” the conversation, meet one another and listen to what participants want out of this discussion.

We have started to look at how successful ethnic organizations built their organizations to support ethnic leaders from their community. While some have asked us to consider alliances with these other ethnic organizations, we might, but we also want to get our act together. Our numbers remain comparatively low, as they always have been. But the recent surge of newly appointed leaders makes clear the need to also build out the pipeline for Asian Americans to secure and hold academic leadership positions. The question of expanding to the corporate and nonprofit worlds is one for our 2023 meeting.

We are still trying to identify Asian American academic leaders. Our list grows from deans and chairs to Presidents. We are not sure how to define membership. But with the importance of the pipeline and mentoring, the question is ready for our national discussion. If you know of Asian Americans who are sitting in Chair, President/Chancellor, Vice President, Dean, or equivalent positions, please send us their names. Thank you!

Please don’t be shy about contacting any of the five of us. We look forward to your participation and your support.

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